History
The white shoe and the mystery of the missing bride A6



Lifestyle
Green up your March on St. Patrick's Day A6



Sports
Kids enjoying Blackstone Hockey Rink B5W

Wilmington
Town Crier

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Heavily contested race for two-year School Com. seat

By CASEY STEVENSON
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The March 5 deadline for submission of nomination papers has come and gone. And the official list of seats and candidates running in the 2021 annual Wilmington town election is as follows:

On the School Committee, three seats are open, two that will be occupied for three-year terms, and one that will be occupied for two years. For the two three-year seats, newcomer James Defeo goes up against Mary Jane Byrnes and David Ragsdale, both incumbent candidates.

For the two-year seat, Justin Cusce, Yvonne Helbert, Emily Irving, and Melissa Plowman go head to head. All four are newcomers.

For the Board of Selectmen seat, one previously reported candidate, incumbent and Chairman of the Board Jonathan Eaton, did not return nomination papers, leaving Lilia Maselli uncontested for the seat. Maselli will serve three years on the Board of Selectmen.

Eaton is not out of the election, however, as he took out and returned papers for the position of Town Moderator. Eaton is uncontested, and will serve a three-year term as moderator.

The Shawsheen Tech School Committee has one seat open, that newcomer Charles Fiore Jr. is running for uncontested. The candidate will serve three years on the Shawsheen Tech School Committee.

Finally, for the one open seat on the Wilmington Housing Authority, newcomer Lorraine Penney runs uncontested. Penney will serve for five years on the Authority, the longest term of the open seats in this election.

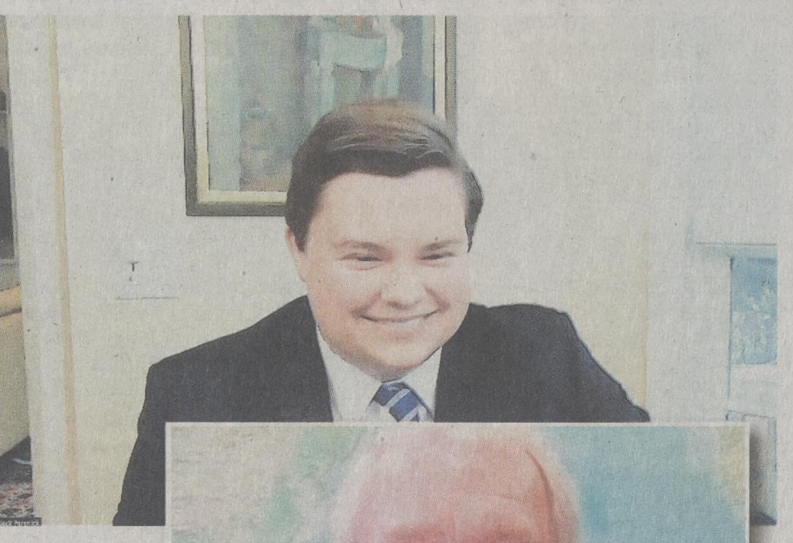
The last day for newly eligible voters to register in time to participate in this year's annual election is Monday, April 5.

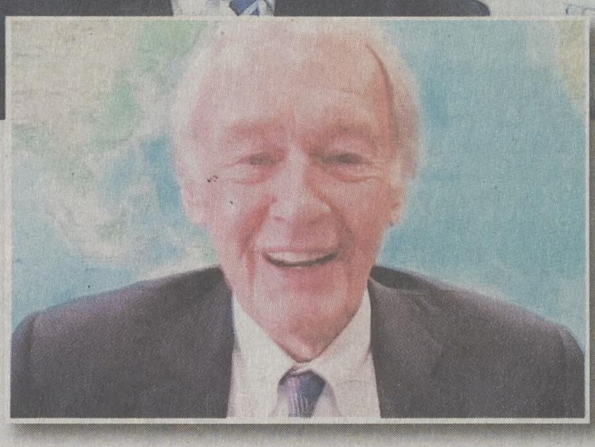
Voting will take place on April 24, 2021, between the hours of 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Those voting will report to their precinct polling station. Information on where each precinct is voting can be found on the Town of Wilmington website.

Those voting absentee should visit the Town of Wilmington website for more information on the process of requesting an absentee ballot.

As a reminder, those participating in voting should remember on April 24 to follow all covid guidelines, such as wearing a mask, social distancing, and using hand sanitizer.







Wilmington student

Nelson receives prestigious scholarship

By CASSIA BURNS
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — Wilmington High School senior Miriam Nelson has been selected as one of two Massachusetts students to participate in this year's United States Senate Youth Program. Nelson, alongside Jack Harlow Perenick of Longmeadow, will represent the Massachusetts delegation with Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senator Ed Markey as one of 104 members of the national student delegation during the virtual Washington Week event from March 14-17, 2021.

In addition to participation in the program, Nelson will also receive a $10,000 scholarship to be put towards her undergraduate degree.

Nelson first learned about the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) while searching online for opportunities for government experience. To apply, she submitted a resume, as well as an essay focusing on a cause taken by one of Massachusetts' U.S. Senators.

After being selected as a finalist, Nelson was interviewed by the MA Department of Education, and was ultimately chosen as one of the state's two delegates for the program.

The USSYP was created in 1962 and has been sponsored by the Senate and fully funded by The Hearst Foundations since its creation. The program's goal, as stated in Senate testimony, is "to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, learn the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and emphasize the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world."

The merit-based program typically brings two outstanding high school students from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity to Washington, D.C. for an intensive week-long study of the federal government. This year, the program will be held online.

In relation to the program, Nelson and Perenick were able to meet with Senator Ed Markey via Zoom. Nelson noted that this was particularly exciting, for Markey works in policy areas of great interest to her, such as the internet and the environment.

At Wilmington High School, Nelson serves as co-president of the senior class, president of Model UN, treasurer of the National Honor Society, and treasurer of the Rotary Interact club. She plays the violin with the Wilmington Strings Orchestra and, prior to the pandemic, she was a color guard section leader and varsity track and field captain.

Nelson also co-founded Project Make Your Mark at Wilmington High School, which encourages students to decorate ceiling tiles to celebrate their time at the school, which can be seen in the events entrance of the high school. In addition to her school activities, she also works a part-time job to save for college.

Nelson's interest in government has translated into work within both the state and local legislative systems. On March 8, Selectwoman Jomarie O'Mahony appointed her to serve on Wilmington's Economic Development Committee. Here, Nelson hopes to provide the perspective of young individuals in town in order to serve the greater community.

"Especially as young people, like myself, are becoming adults during an economic crisis, I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to serve not only them, but this whole town that I am proud to call home," Nelson said.

Over the summer, she interned with Representative Dave Robertson at the State House. Utilizing the information she learn-

NELSON | PAGE A7W

▲US Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts speaks with his delegates Miriam Nelson and Jack Perenick on Zoom during the United States Senate Youth Program on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. The Zoom also included the Senator and Joey Wender USSYP alum from IL-1999. 104 high school student delegates — two from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity — take part in the 59th annual United States Senate Youth Program held online (because of the COVID-19 Pandemic) on March 14-17, 2021 and numerous Senate Zoom meetings from February 17 to March 25, 2021. (©Photo by Jakub Mosur and Erin Lubin).

Selectmen receive health update, create Cable Advisory Task Force

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The Board of Selectmen opened their meeting this Monday night as usual with the COVID-19 health update from Fire Chief Bill Cavanaugh and Board of Health Director Shelly Newhouse before they received communications and other action items.

Cavanaugh mentioned that active positive COVID-19 cases in town have continued to drop, which Newhouse confirmed. He said that they recommend anyone who's eligible and willing to get the vaccine to do so, with three vaccines now available at various state vaccination sites.

He wasn't sure if talks were still ongoing with the state delegation on setting up a site at the Shriner's Auditorium, but he did include the CDC guidance that those who are vaccinated don't need to wear masks while gathering with others who have also been vaccinated.

Newhouse reported that the town had 70 positives and 115 residents in quarantine at the time. She shared that there wasn't any uptick after school vacation, but the trend in families has continued. She also said that the town has vaccinated 200 people with both doses

BOS | PAGE A8W

Rep. Robertson fined for improper campaign reporting

By PAIGE IMPINK
News Correspondent
paige@yourtowncrier.com

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance reached an agreement on March 4, 2021 with State Representative Dave Robertson regarding payment of campaign related activities out of personal funds, totaling over $15,000, without proper disclosure.

According to the agreement, "Prior to the primary election on Sept. 1,2020, and the general election on Nov. 3, 2020, the Candidate and Committee distributed door hangers, letters, and signs, and placed newspaper and Facebook advertisements promoting Robertson's candidacy for State Representative. The Committee's bank reports from Aug. 1, 2020 through Sept. 30, 2020 only disclosed two expenditures, totaling $6, for bank fees."

Robertson represents the 19th Middlesex District encompassing the towns of Tewksbury and Wilmington.

According to Massachusetts General Law, all legislative candidates are required to disclose their campaign finance activity through the depository system of reporting.

The agreement states "the Candidate signed and filed a statement with OCPF in which the Committee appointed a depository bank and affirmed that all campaign finance activity would be handled by the Committee through the depository account, as required by M.G.L.c55,919."

Candidates are not prohibited from using their own funds for campaign purposes; however, such funds must be deposited in the candidate's campaign account first, and then withdrawals can be made. Robertson's former treasurer, Jesse Fennelly of Wilmington, a member of the Wilmington School Committee, resigned and apologized for falling behind in the reporting of campaign expenses.

According to state records, expenditures in the amount of $15,399.05 were not reported initially in an external activity report. Robertson's current campaign manager is Wilmington Town Moderator Rob Peterson.

Robertson provided a statement in the OCPF document:" I am pleased to have worked with OCPF to properly clarify and record how my own personal, out-of-pocket expenses were meant to be stated, and am confident going forward that this issue is permanently resolved."

Robertson must provide copies of receipts and deposits for any campaign activity from January 2021-June of 2022 on a predetermined schedule to the OCPF. Robertson must also pay the $2,000 fine in four quarterly installments of $500 each for the remainder of 2021 out of his own personal funds.

Robertson provided the following statement to the *Town Crier*: "I am pleased that this is all wrapped up, the expenditures of my own money that needed to be clarified were done as soon as OCPF made us aware last October, and our new treasurer is coming on board with no issues moving forward as I continue to serve our towns."

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INDEX In Business... A5 | Lifestyle... A6 | Middlesex East... B1 | Obituaries... A5 | Opinion... A4 | Police Logs... B4 | Sports... B5W

Wilmington Library News:

Mother Earth poetry contest opens on Monday, March 15

Library Hours

The Library is open for curbside pickup only, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday & Saturday. Text us when you arrive and we will bring your books out to you. Staff is available by phone 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday & Saturday.

WML Virtual Programming

While the building is closed, the library continues to offer a variety for virtual events. Please note that registration is required in order to receive the Zoom link. Go to *wilmlibrary.org* to register or call 978-658-2967.

Poetry Contest

Wilmington Memorial Library invites you to submit a poem about Mother Nature. This theme is in keeping with WML's Earth Year initiative. Poems may be about the enjoyment of nature as well as the importance of protecting our environment. Submissions are open from March 15-April 17. Winners in each age category from Kindergarten through Adults will be selected and winning poems will be published on the library's website.

Adult Programs

Boston Made: From Revolution to Robotics

Thursday, March 11, 7 p.m.

Join Dr. Robert Krim and Alan Earls for a presentation based on their acclaimed new book, Boston Made: From Revolution to Robotics-Innovations that Changed the World.

Suffragettes in Corselettes

Saturday, March 13, 10:30 a.m.

For centuries, women have allowed themselves to be squeezed, twisted, and squished to conform to desired shapes. The history of underwear reveals a lot about women's changing roles in society — how we perceive ourselves, and how we're viewed by others. The 1910s saw an end to the hourglass figure with a tiny waist. Did the demise of tightlacing help women gain the right to vote in 1920? Presented by Ehris Urban & Velya Jancz-Urban of The Grounded Goodwife.

The McMurphy's

Thursday, March 15, 2:30 p.m.

For over 25 years, the McMurphy duo has played at many venues up and down the East Coast led by guitarist Jay Murphy and percussionist Wally Welch. Sit back, relax and enjoy this concert of Irish favorites. Shown live on WCTV on Comcast 9 / Verizon 37 and online at *WCTV.org/live/* (Don't forget to press the Play icon to start the live stream).

Current Affairs Discussion Group

Wednesday, March 17, 7 p.m.

This group is for all who would like to broaden their knowledge of current national and international affairs. The topic for March is the pandemic — the good and the bad. All are encouraged to read, listen, and watch in order to become more informed about the topic and be ready to discuss with others. Led by facilitator Dan Hall.

Novel Ideas Fiction Book Group

Thursday, March 18, 7 p.m.

Enjoy reading fiction? Join the library's fiction book group led by Adult Services Librarian Erin Driscoll. Please stop by the library to pick up a copy of the featured book, Dominicana by Angie Cruz.

Jennifer Dupee Discusses 'The Little French Bridal Shop"

Friday, March 19, 7 p.m.

Author Jennifer Dupee will discuss her latest book, The Little French Bridal Shop, in conversation with author Maya Lang, in this Zoom webinar.

Poetry Circle

Saturday, March 20, 9:15 a.m.

Do you enjoy writing poetry? Want input on your work? If so, this group is for you. Led by local writing enthusiast, Barbara Alevras. If you are interested in attending this event, please email Assistant Director Charlotte Wood at *cwood@wilmlibrary.org*.

Booby-trapped: the Bra in America

Saturday, March 20, 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy this "uplifting" look at the history of the bra in America. Before the bra was invented, corsets lifted breasts to artificial heights — but they pushed from below instead of lifting from above. You can discover a lot about women in history by how much cleavage was showing, and the era's most desirable breast shape. While it can be argued that a bra is a necessity — not an accessory — one of the best feelings at the end of the day is to release ourselves. One thing's for certain: the American Woman is still waiting for her ideal brassiere! Presented by Ehris Urban & Velya Jancz-Urban of The Grounded Goodwife.

Youth Programs

Women Making History Display

All month long!

Celebrate Women's History Month, by learning about inspirational women throughout history and today! Come to the library any day in March and take a look in our front door windows to see stories and pictures of empowering women.

Leprechaun Trap Take & Makes

Now-March 17, during curbside hours

Lads and lassies, leprechauns are quick! To catch one, you'll have to set up a trick. Pick up a bag of supplies for a take and make at home, then set up your trap all on your own! Send us a picture of your finished design, to be entered into a raffle for a leprechaun's chocolate gold so fine. While supplies last. Raffle winner announced on the 18th.

Kindergarten Book Club

Monday, March 15, 4 p.m.

Calling all kindergarteners! Join us for a virtual book club for kindergarteners who miss storytime or those who love to be read to. We will read, talk about a few books and do a virtual activity. Kindergarten

How to Read Your Financial Aid Award Letter

Tuesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.

Congratulations, your student got accepted! But then you received something that can be very confusing: the financial aid award letter. With the different types of aid and loans, how much will college really cost you? We'll review the different types of aid — grants, loans, work study — and discuss how they work, as well as the terms and conditions. We'll also discuss what questions you should ask to fully understand how much college will really cost of you, and how to ask for more money!

High School Students & Adults

Family Craft Night

Wednesday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a night of crafting with your family! Registered groups can pick up a bag of craft supplies and join us for a virtual event full of fun and creativity! This month's craft is going to be St. Patrick's Day inspired with shamrock pinwheels and leprechauns.

Cascarones Crafteroon

Thursday, March 18, 4 p.m.

Dye confetti eggs and learn about their traditional roots in spreading good luck and holiday cheer! Pick up your kit with everything you'll need to make a dozen, and then join Brittany, WHS Spanish teacher Ms. Pietro, and the WHS World Cultures Club for a Zoom tutorial. *Participants need to provide a carton of eggs, a bowl, a spoon, and 3 cups of water.

Grades 4-12

Social Justice Service Group

Saturday, March 20, 11 a.m.

Join us over Zoom for a Social Justice Service Group meeting! This month we will meet the founders of Merrimack Valley Black and Brown Voices, a non-profit organization that provides Black, Indigenous, and People of Color across the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts with a safe space to connect, share resources, and create systemic change to eliminate prejudice and discrimination in surrounding communities. Learn about their mission, story, and work in our community, including fundraising. Please bring questions for MVBBV! You will earn community service hours for attending. Grades 9-12

D&D

Saturday, March 20, 3-5 p.m.

Interested in finding out more about this fantasy tabletop role-playing game, or looking for a group to play with? Join DM Michaela for a virtual campaign via Zoom (or Google Hangouts) every month!.

Grades 6-8

Preschool Storytime

Tuesday, March 16, 10 a.m.

This storytime for preschoolers includes books, rhymes, and music. Ages 3-5

Time for Twos

Wednesday, March 17, 10 a.m.

This storytime for two year olds includes books, rhymes, music and movement.

Baby Time

Thursday, March 18, 10 a.m.

This program of songs, rhymes, games and picture books is for babies under the age of two years and their caregivers.

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WILMINGTON, MA

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JOSE RESENDES - TEWKSBURY, MA
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It's Your Money

by Todd Brisbois



REAL ESTATE INCOME TAX Q&A

— PART III —

Q: *Is the mortgage interest and real property tax I pay on a second residence deductible?*

A: Yes and maybe.

Mortgage interest paid on a second residence is deductible as long as you don't rent out the residence during the tax year, and the mortgage satisfies the same requirements for deductible interest as on a primary residence. If you do rent out the residence, you must use it for more than 14 days or more than 10% of the number of days you rent it out, whichever is longer, for the mortgage interest to be deductible.

If the home was acquired on or before December 15, 2017, then the total amount you (or your spouse if married filing a joint return) can treat as home acquisition debt on your main and second home is $1,000,000; or $500,000 if married filing separately. If the home was acquired after December 15, 2017, the home acquisition debt limit is $750,000; or $375,000 if married filing separately.

State and local real property taxes are generally deductible.

Deductible real property taxes include any state or local taxes based on the value of the real property and levied for the general public welfare.

Deductible real property taxes don't include taxes charged for local benefits and improvements that directly increase the value of the real property, such as assessments for sidewalks, water mains, sewer lines, parking lots, and similar improvements.

The total deduction allowed for all state and local taxes, including real property taxes, is limited to $10,000; or $5,000 if married filing separately.

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Book Stew Review

'Aftershocks' by Nadia Owusu

By EILEEN MACDOUGALL

This author shares a mixed-race family background with Barack Obama and Kamala Harris, all with African fathers.

In her case, her father Osei, an Ghanaian-American diplomat, became her primary parent when her mother, an Armenian-American from Watertown, abandoned Nadia and her younger sister when they were small. With her father and stepmother, she lived in England, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Ghana, Italy, and Uganda while she was growing up.

After her father died, Nadia expected that her birth mother Almas would bring her to the US to join her new family, but being rejected on the heels of her beloved father's death led to trauma and a permanent feeling of abandonment.

In each home, there were loving family and friends for help and support, but that never made up for the fundamental losses. The book is set up to reflect the stages of earthquakes, as Nadia see her life as a series of constant eruptions of tragedies to be borne, at a cost that seems too high at times.

Her narrative includes many examples of blatant racism and colorism (being judged by the whitest complexion), and in each country Nadia lives, being Black means something different, even in Africa.

One of the most horrifyingly vivid scenes involves description of the death of her younger brother at the hands of police, so strongly told that the reader feels true relief when it is revealed as a most terrible nightmare.

Quote: "A story is a flashlight and a weapon."

News and notes from WCTV

Hello friends and neighbors! Here's what's going on at WCTV!

WCTV PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT!

WHERE'S WILMINGTON: George Hooper

Tune in for this months' episode of Where's Wilmington with Lisa Kapala and her special guest George Hooper, Superintendent of Wilmington's Public Buildings Department. Hear all about what a typical day looks like for George and his staff as well as what they are doing to keep our buildings safe during the pandemic.

View on: *WCTV.org* on demand.

WCTV LIVE CONCERT EVENT!

Monday, March 15, 2:30 p.m.

Just in time for your Saint Patrick's Day celebration WCTV and the Wilmington Memorial Library present, The McMurphy's! For over 25 years, the McMurphy duo has played at many venues up and down the East Coast led by guitarist Jay Murphy and percussionist Wally Welch. Sit back, relax and enjoy this concert of Irish favorites.

View live on channels: Verizon 37 and Comcast 9 and online at *WCTV.org/live/*.

UPCOMING MEETINGS COVERED BY WCTV!

Monday, March 15, 7:15 p.m. Board of Selectmen

View on channels: Verizon 38 and Comcast 22.

Tuesday March 16, 7 p.m. Planning Board and Finance Committee (joint meeting)

View on channels: Verizon 38, Comcast 22.

Thursday, March 18, 7 p.m. Finance Committee

View on channels: Verizon 38, Comcast 22.

WCTV is located at: 10 Waltham Street, Wilmington

Office Hours by Appointment: (978) 657-4066

Questions about WCTV? Contact *info@wctv.org*

WCTV Channels: Public Channel: Verizon 37, Comcast 9

Meetings & Government: Verizon 38, Comcast 22

Access: Verizon 39. Comcast 99

To watch programs On-Demand or for more information check us out at *WCTV.org*

Follow us on Facebook: Wilmington Community Television

WILMINGTON/TEWKSBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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www.WilmingtonTewksburyChamber.org

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



HealthPlus Urgent Care

234 Main Street
Wilmington, MA 01867
(Market Basket Plaza next to Panera Bread)

(978) 909-4482

www.hpurgentcare.com

Residents of Wilmington and the surrounding area have a brand new, convenient, modern urgent care facility to visit for their urgent care needs. HealthPlus Urgent Care officially opened last week In Market Basket Plaza next to Panera Bread. HealthPlus' team are available 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. and offer services including COVID testing with same day results, telemedicine visits, and urgent care for non-threatening life conditions to patients of all ages.

"We are excited to offer quality care to the residents of the Wilmington and surrounding areas," Dr. Akindele Majekodunmi, CEO and Founder of The HealthPlus Group, the company's parent company. "This grand opening is special to us as Wilmington is in our back yard with our corporate offices being just a few miles up the road from our company headquarters in North Andover. We look forward to servicing the community's medical needs while reducing the burden on local emergency rooms not only during the COVID-19 pandemic, but for years to come."

HealthPlus Urgent Care is fully-staffed with Medical Doctors and Medical and Physician Assistants. "We are proud of our accomplished and highly-trained staff of medical providers who joined our team and will offer best-in-class care to residents," added Dr. Faisal Malik, Medical Director of Wilmington HealthPlus Urgent Care.

Urgent care centers play an increasingly important part of our healthcare system, providing patients with immediate access to quality care with shorter wait times and lower costs than the traditional emergency room. "Every medical emergency is a priority to us and we want to ensure that each patient who walks through our door is taken care of and accommodated immediately with personalized treatment," said Majekodunmi.

Patients can visit www.hpurgentcare.com or call (978) 909-4482 to schedule their appointment.

This member profile is provided by the Wilmington/Tewksbury Chamber of Commerce and the Wilmington/Tewksbury Town Crier to promote and support home town business. To have your business highlighted here contact Executive Director Nancy Vallee at 978-657-7211.

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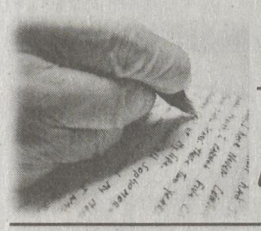
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1 **Gold Star Money Market Promotion:** Introductory rate of 1.00% APY (Annual Percentage Yield) is accurate as of 11/25/2020 and is only available for funds not currently on deposit at Salem Five. **Account must be opened at the Salem Five Wilmington Branch.** The introductory interest rate will apply during the first 90 days the account is opened. Maximum deposit limit is $500,000 per account and one account per customer. Rate will change after 90 days to the standard Gold Star money market rate. As of 11/25/2020, the Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for the Gold Star Money Market is 0.10% APY for balances from $1 to $9,999.99 and 0.25% APY earned on all balance tiers greater than or equal to $10,000. Rates are subject to change. Minimum balance to open is $10. Fees may reduce earnings. See banker for details. Offer may be discontinued at any time without prior notice.

2 **Business Money Market Promotion:** Introductory rate of 1.00% APY (Annual Percentage Yield) is accurate as of 11/25/2020 and is only available for funds not currently on deposit at Salem Five. **Account must be opened at the Salem Five Wilmington Branch.** The introductory interest rate will apply during the first 90 days the account is opened. Maximum deposit limit is $500,000 per account and one account per customer. Rate is subject to change to the Business Money Market rate after the 90 days introductory offer. See banker for details. Minimum balance to open is $50. Fees may reduce earnings. Offer may be discontinued at any time without prior notice.

OPINION



Letters to the editor

Plowman the voice needed for Wilmington's children

To my fellow voters of Wilmington,

First and foremost, I am writing this letter of endorsement for Melissa Plowman as a candidate for the Wilmington School Committee not just because she is a friend, but I truly believe she will make a difference.

Last September, just like the majority of families with children in the Wilmington Public Schools system, my girls — a 5th grader and high school senior — had no clear direction on what their first day of school would look like until two days before school started. The stress and uncertainty that put on parents and their children was simply unfair and unacceptable.

Like many of you, I was watching the Sept. 15 School Committee meeting that occurred just one night before school started. As I was watching that meeting, to see if any insight would be given to parents, that is when I heard Mellissa Plowman's plea for our kids well-being for the first time.

From her thoughtfulness and clarity in the way she addressed the committee, to her focus on our childrens' emotions, she had everyone's attention from the moment she began.

Anytime I am discussing the present school situation with a Wilmington parent and mention Melissa's comments, although at the time they might not have known her name, they know exactly what I am talking about. She simply nailed it.

Melissa is exactly the type of voice we need to represent our children. Not only does she have two children within the Wilmington school system to advocate for, she has 18 years of experience working in the field of child psychology and in school settings. She understands what our children need to feel safe and what they need to excel.

You can learn more about her background here: *https://www.facebook.com/MelissaPlowmanforWilmingtonSchoolCommittee*

And if you have not heard Melissa's comments, I encourage you to visit *wctv.org/video-on-demand/* and search for "School Committee - September 15, 2020. Her comments start at the 9:25 minute mark. I can almost guarantee after listening, she will earn your vote. I know she has mine. Don't forget to go to the polls on April 24.

Sincerely,
Kyle Bishop

Plowman's experience a good fit for School Comm.

Dear Wilmington residents,

We are writing to you as lifelong residents of Wilmington and as business owners here in town. We would like to express our support of our very good friend, Melissa Plowman, for the Wilmington School Committee.

We met Melissa and her family eight years ago when our daughters began kindergarten and then realized they were attending the same dance studio. Melissa and her husband Nate are such great people! We instantly clicked and became fast friends!

As many people now know, Melissa has been working for over a decade in the field of child development. She has much knowledge on the importance of social-emotional awareness in schools and she has been a consultant for many schools on the North Shore.

We know she has extensive experience training school staff and providing professional development opportunities for educators; but we can speak to her knowledge of the school space personally as Melissa has helped us to navigate the IEP process for our own children. She has broadened our understanding of both when and how to advocate for our children and we are so grateful for that.

Additionally, as the owner of a small private practice, she will bring many years of business decision-making experience to the seat, which we know will help her contribute to the work that a School Committee does.

Beyond her professional experiences, we believe Melissa is the right person for our town's School Committee because she values assertive, yet respectful, communication. While Melissa is passionate about the mental health of our children and youth, and she is a strong advocate for these things, she always conducts herself with a high degree of professionalism, and has the ability to work collaboratively, even if she may not agree with your exact perspective.

These qualities are things that we value in those that are in a leadership role in our town and therefore it is very important to us that Melissa gets your vote.

This past year has been incredibly difficult on students and teachers, and we feel very deeply that Melissa can add extreme value to the School Committee with her background and experience. This year, more than ever, we need to take into consideration the mental health of our children and their educators!

We encourage you to get to know Melissa and all that she stands for! Like her Facebook page *https://www.facebook.com/MelissaPlowmanforWilmingtonSchoolCommittee* and please join us in voting for Melissa Plowman on April 24!!! Thank you for your time and support!

Best,
Christina & Eric Morin

No easy way of getting used to life during a pandemic

By PAUL J. ANDREWS

OK, I get it, in knowing that whatever I say will not help but this pandemic world in which we have been living is strange and most difficult. You walk the centers of our *Town Crier* area and people think they recognize you and say hello through the single or double masks. You respond not really knowing who the person is.

Does this make sense? I guess it does but this pandemic world is just strange. Many of our friends have lost family members with plans for a funeral for their loved one needing to be changed to react with care for all in the COVID atmosphere. This is heartbreaking to see this happen.

I feel so bad for these families in this type of situation as their well-loved kin deserved a better tribute. The fact of the matter is that families do the best they can but it just does not seem to be fair but who can you blame? While religious services are offered in our communities, there is advised caution for all to be careful in being present in large groups, as we are told and need to believe.

Every day, news reports in the late afternoon in preparation for the network news still announces the latest COVID numbers, hospitalizations and deaths. Thanks to medical science and vaccinations, these are declining and the COVID data usually brought to you a second time in the news report itself, like you need to hear it again but maybe we do.

But wait, the recent numbers that I saw were down for several straight days. Did I hear that right? I need to hear that again. Can I take off my mask(s)? I am told "not on your life" so I will still wear the mask but if it is alright, I will be smiling just a bit.

What's happening to Horn Pond Island?

Wilmington has its Silver Lake, Burlington has a sculpture park and Winchester has the Fells, but Woburn has the "island" right in the middle of Horn Pond. If you have been in the area recently, you will see the flora on the island almost disappearing from sight following many winter storms this year.

The island has a long history for the folks of Woburn as folks talk about it being the site for a dance hall, bowling alleys and many other activities in the early days prior to the natural process of erosion taking over and diminishing the land mass to what it has become today.

While my first thought is that it would be great to do something to protect the island from further loss, this may be considered but may be futile. We will leave that up to the experts and the Historical Commission, Consrvation Commission or the Mystic River Watershed Association.

Information to share

Following are some Morning Pulse extractions for your reading: National poll shows small businesses dropping in revenue; Stress can no longer be an HR afterthought; Venture capital is going to get even bigger, faster and more expensive this year; As COVID-19 exposes long-term care crisis, efforts grow to keep more seniors at home; Empty hotel rooms have become private dining rooms and office spaces; Elon Musk wants to drill for natural gas in Texas to power the Space X Starship; The automotive industry is beginning to say goodbye to gasoline powered cars; Social Security survivor benefits allow option of switching to retirement benefits later; Study-Nonprofits lost 50,000 jobs last month; Low interest rates — desire for more room makes for a hot housing market; Fewer than 4 in 10 Americans could pay a surprise $1,000 bill from savings; Cases of COVID-19 in nursing homes have steadily fallen.

Support hard working, dedicated Byrnes for School Committee seat

To the editor,

This letter is in support of Ms. MJ Byrnes and all her hard work and dedication as a member of the Wilmington School Committee.

I truly appreciate MJ's understanding of our students, their development, and their individual as well as their collective needs. MJ has dedicated her time to helping the educators in Wilmington develop the whole student and not just fill an empty student vessel with facts and figures.

She has realized that students must feel safe, valued, and empowered in order to learn deeply. MJ has tackled the job of improving the overall advancement for what many see as our most vulnerable population, the middle school students, head on by considering programs and strategies to develop coping strategies and social skills that will allow our young people to become competent adults.

MJ has always listened carefully to all people in the district, regardless of their affiliation, and measured their intention and impact for not only the school community but the town as well. Her advocacy for us all is invaluable and not only will I be supporting her in her quest for a seat on the School Committee again but I strongly recommend others to do the same by voting on April 24, 2021.

Wanda McLaren
(teacher for 33 years Somerville Public Schools and Wilmington resident)

Experience, expertise two reasons to support Plowman for School Comm.

To my fellow residents of Wilmington,

I am writing to express my endorsement and support of Melissa Plowman for the Wilmington School Committee.

As a mother of three students currently enrolled in Wilmington Public Schools, as well as a classroom teacher in a neighboring community, I am excited by this opportunity and hope that you will share my enthusiasm once you understand what Melissa brings to the table as a candidate.

I first met Melissa four years ago when our daughters began taking dance classes together. Over that time, I have witnessed Melissa's dedication to the children of Wilmington by serving on hiring committees for principals, as a member of the SEL reopening committee this summer and as a public commentator at the School Committee Meeting on Sept. 15 (Minute 9:25). Never have I been more proud to call Melissa my friend.

One thing I admire about Melissa is her ability to share her concerns for our children's well being, while keeping a positive and respectful line of communication with the schools.

What Melissa will bring to the Wilmington School Committee is close to 20 years of working with adolescents and neighboring school communities to address and improve the mental well being of students. Now, more than ever, we need someone with this level of expertise and experience supporting our Wilmington students.

As a public school educator myself for 16 years, I appreciate the direct, respectful, and positive relationships she has with school administration. Melissa has voiced concerns over several aspects of our children's learning and always with a high level of decorum and willingness to help improve situations as much as possible.

She understands the demands educators are under, but is not afraid to ask questions about improving the learning environments of our children.

Melissa has been working as a voice for the mental health and well being of the children of Wilmington for several years now. The time has come to give her a larger platform. Not only do our children deserve it, they need it more than ever.

I ask you to join me in supporting the mental health of our entire educational system with a vote for Melissa Plowman on April 24. To learn more please visit *https://www.facebook.com/MelissaPlowmanforWilmingtonSchoolCommittee*

Sincerely,
Justine Viveiros

iPods for Wounded Veterans helps paralyzed Air Force veteran

To the editor,
Dear Board,

On Jan. 28, 2021, while receiving our COVID vaccinations at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, we were approached by Mr. John Parker who noticed my son, Brandon Walker, waiting in his wheelchair.

Brandon Walker is an Air Force veteran that is paralyzed from a fall in 2014 while serving as a Geospatial Intelligence Analyst in support of deployed elements for OIF and OEF. Brandon fell seven stories from a rooftop but survived the fall. He is an incomplete paraplegic and his T-6 vertebrae was shattered in the fall along with both femurs.

He collapsed both lungs and lost his spleen but he has an acquired brain injury from both hypoxia and sheering from the fall. It is nothing short of a miracle that he is still with us today.

After speaking with Mr. Parker, he referred us to Mr. Cardello who subsequently arranged to send a box full of electronics and devices to help Brandon during his recovery and with everyday life.

We were both shocked at the generosity, care and compassion shown by relative strangers with the only common bond being that of faithful military service.

Brandon spent much of this past weekend unpackaging and setting up the various devices that were sent. I would hesitate to list all the items for fear of leaving anything out, but suffice it to say that it was akin to a kid at Christmas and the joy on his face was all a parent current could ever hope for.

The challenges have been many, and the fear of losing Brandon has weighed heavily at times. What may seem routine to you now, can only be considered near miraculous for families such as ours to be the benefactors of your generosity and commitment to our veterans.

"Thank you" just doesn't seem like enough to express how this has touched us and will make Brandon's days so much more enjoyable and productive, but please accept this as our extreme gratitude for all you are doing for us and families like ours.

I also am aware that programs such as these do not exist without a "village" behind the scenes: donors, volunteers and other organizations that support our veterans. To all those that play a part in bringing this to fruition, we also wish to say thank you, and hope you will share this with them. You are ALL making huge differences in people's lives.

Specifically, Mr. Parker, we appreciate you taking notice and taking the time to share your story with us. Your enthusiasm and care for our veterans is evident from the first instant we engaged with you in conversation. We are honored and humbled to have met you and to now share in your legacy. Thank you.

Brandon Walker
Brandon Walker, USAF
Dayna Walker
Dayna Walker, USA (Ret.)

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Send Letters to the Editor to:
office@yourtowncrier.com.

All submissions must be accompanied by full name, address, and daytime contact information for verification purposes.
Letters must be e-mailed by noon on Monday in order for consideration the same week's edition.

Town Crier
Tewksbury - Wilmington
Office located at:
One Arrow Drive, Woburn, MA 01801
(978) 658-2346 FAX (978) 658-2266
E-Mail: Office@YourTownCrier.com
Publication No. 635-340
A Publication of the Woburn Daily Times, Inc.
One Arrow Drive, Woburn, MA 01801, published every Wednesday

Founder: Capt. Larz Neilson
Publisher: Peter M. Haggerty
News Editor: Ryan LaRoche
Advertising: Bruce Hilliard
Sports Editor: Jamie Pote

Subscription prices: Payable in advance.
In Wilmington and Tewksbury: $75 a year. Elsewhere $90 a year.

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Movie Review
"COMING 2 AMERICA"



Recipe
"SLOW-COOKER CORNED BEEF"
Page B-3

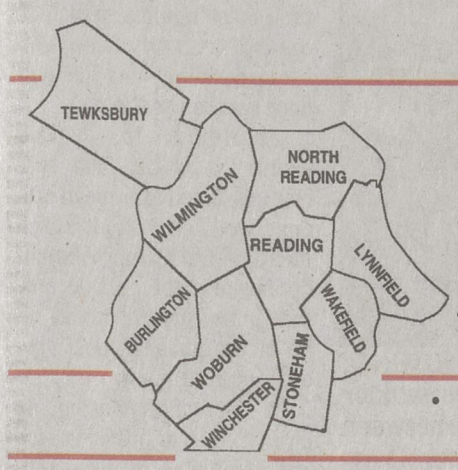


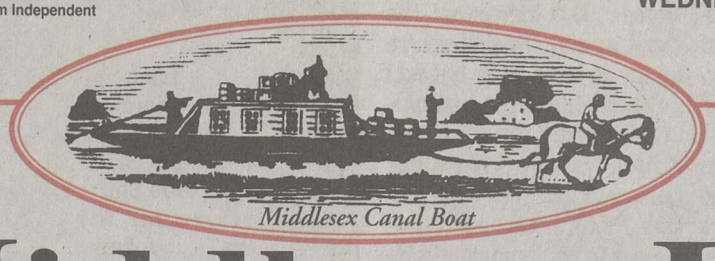
Real Estate Transfers
Page B-3



MIDDLESEX EAST appearing in Daily Times – Chronicle (Reading, Woburn, Winchester, Burlington, Wakefield), Lynnfield Villager, No. Reading Transcript, Wilmington & Tewksbury Town Crier, Stoneham Independent

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY MARCH 10, 11, 2021 PAGE B-1





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Birch Meadow area

Reading considers major upgrades to recreation area

BY PAT BLAIS

It could become a recreational village in the heart of Reading.

Capping off a months-long visioning and study process, principals from Needham consulting firm Activitas recently unveiled an ambitious multi-million dollar plan to upgrade and tie together a sprawling network of conservation areas, playgrounds, and athletic spaces that comprise what is known as Birch Meadow Park.

Not stopping there, the master plan, which the study team estimates will take nearly a decade to fund and implement, also proposes the addition of at least two new synthetic fields, athletic amenities like batting cages, nighttime lights, new seating areas, and the addition of new walking trails, restrooms, and passive park and picnic areas.

The three-phased undertaking would reportedly range between $10 to $17 million, based upon rough forecast presentations from Activitas representative Mark Novak.

"We moved forward with a design that was reasonable because it works within the existing structure of Birch Meadow. It doesn't go and and rip everything out to recreate the wheel, so to speak," Novak told the Select Board last month.

"This is fantastic. It's well thought-out and complete," agreed Select Board Chair Mark Dockser, whose sentiments were echoed by several of his colleagues.

Birch Meadow Park

Sitting just northwest of Reading Center, the recreational area, sandwiched between Main Street and Route 129, already includes the high-use synthetic tuft athletic areas and tennis courts by Reading Memorial High School.

However, according Novak, who has also pitched the master plan to Reading's Recreation Committee, the area could become a true community gem if only better connected to nearby but disjointed conservation spaces and public parking lots.

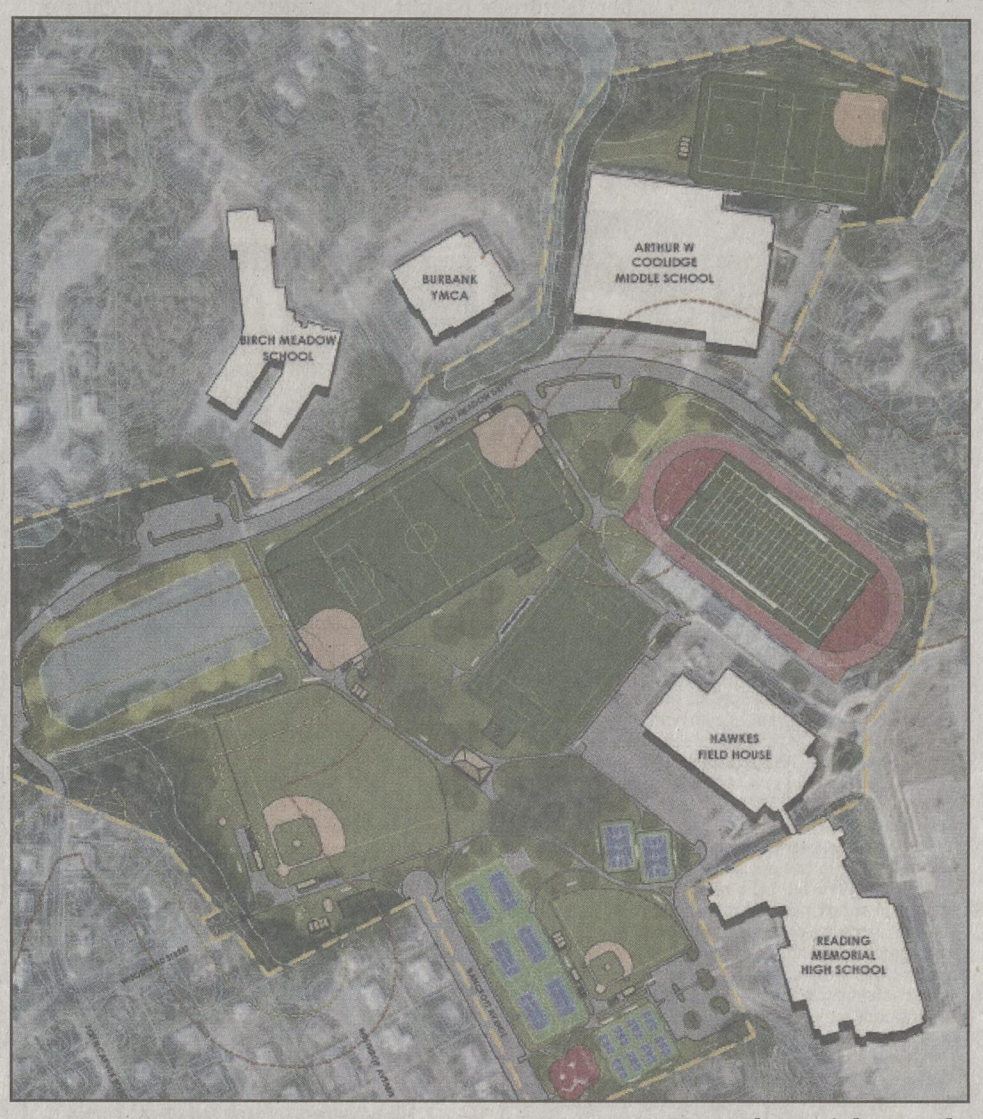
Those park and conservation hot spots border other town landmarks like the Burbank YMCA, sections of the Aberjona River and Higgins Conservation area, and the Birch Meadow Elementary School and Coolidge Middle School.

One of the new turf fields, a multi-purpose space where lacrosse/soccer or two softball games could be played, is proposed for an area behind the middle school.

To facilitate access to that new field, Reading's former Imagination Station, which sits across the street from the middle school and adjacent to the main RMHS stadium, would be retrofitted to include improved parking and pedestrian access along one of two "spines".

The two spines would be two, eight-to-ten foot wide, walking trails that bisect the middle of Birch Meadow Park to facilitate access from distant parking areas to all of the site's field and passive recreational amenities.

Besides the spine that runs from the middle school to the main turf field and stadium area at RMHS, a second main walkway would run from the high school's Rise Preschool parking lot to the vicinity of Castine Field, the Higgins Conservation area, and Morton Field.



LOCAL RECREATION OPTIONS IN READING may get a substantial upgrade in the coming decade. The town is considering better connecting several existing recreation sites as well as adding several new options for residents.

A brand new restroom facility and pavilion building for picnicking would be situated off that major artery.

Meanwhile, an upgraded children's playground, eight new pickleball courts, and two new outdoor basketball courts would also be created between the youth baseball at Morton Field by Bancroft Avenue and the Rise parking area.

"[The central spine] connects almost every element in the park from Birch Meadow all the way down to the parking lot at RMHS. And along that spine, we'd have secondary pathways running along the fields," Novak explained.

"Our ideas is to expand access to the park from parking areas. We know parking is an issue, especially along Bancroft Avenue," continued the landscape architect, saying the idea is users will consider secondary lots if they can more easily walk to all of Birch Meadow Park's fields.

Next steps

According to Town Manager Robert LeLacheur, though the Birch Meadow master planning process has already included at least two public forums, he believes the town's citizenry may need a few more opportunities to consider the overall proposal.

LeLacheur last month also advised the Select Board that before moving into a formal design and vetting process, the phased improvement plan needs to be incorporated into the community's capital budget.

"I'm pretty sure nothing that is being described is in the capital plan. So that would be the next step, to work that into a capital plan this summer," said the town manager.

Already, Reading's Recreation Committee is ready to begin that process, as it has endorsed a proposal to construct the spine heading towards the Birch Meadow

Reading TO B-2



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Movie Reviews & Box Office News

An updated 'Coming 2 America' for a #MeToo world

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer



THE COMEBACK KING - Eddie Murphy, left, and Jermaine Fowler appear in a scene from "Coming 2 America", a sequel 33 years in the making. (Quantrell D. Colbert/Paramount Pictures via AP)

Once upon a time, dear children, before you were born, they made a fairytale movie about a kingdom called Zamunda. "Coming to America," starring Eddie Murphy at the height of his popularity and charisma, became a huge hit and a cult classic.

In this film, dear children, Murphy played Prince Akeem — he didn't need to be called Prince Charming, because he was already so darned charming. We met him on the morning of his 21st birthday, awakening in his palace bedroom to a full orchestra, servants tossing rose petals at his feet, and gorgeous naked women servicing him in the bathtub until his royal appendage was deemed clean.

Oops! Sorry, kids. Some parts of "Coming To America" didn't age very well. Including most of the stuff about women.

But 33 years and one #MeToo movement later, it's time for a reboot. The good news about "Coming 2 America," directed by Craig Brewer, is that things have gotten better for women in Zamunda. Yes, it's still a patriarchy (more on that soon) and yes, there are still obedient royal bathers. But we don't see their naked breasts or backsides. There's also a bathtub gag involving the great Leslie Jones that flips the gender dynamic entirely and gratifyingly (especially for her).

And now, Prince Akeem is not a randy young heir but an established family man. Happily married for 30 years to Princess Lisa — the bride he found in Queens in the last film — he has three daughters, brave and feisty. The eldest wants to be his heir. A female heir? That's not done, in Zamunda. But the times, they are — or might be — a-changin'.

That's the good news. The bad news is that this sequel, despite (or perhaps because of) its nod to modern sensibilities, isn't nearly as funny or edgy as the original. It has seemingly everything – the original cast, some well-known newcomers, high-profile cameos — and eye-popping costumes by the great Ruth E. Carter (an Oscar winner for "Black Panther"). It has set pieces and

Movie TO B-2

Movie

from page B-1

choreography and de-aging technology and overlaying plot lines. What it has less of, is fun.

Still, just like we go to college reunions 30 years later to recapture the magic, fans of the first will flock to it on Amazon Prime. They likely won't be too disappointed. Especially because, despite the knowing references to urban gentrification, transgender offspring, Teslas and even unnecessary movie sequels, little has really changed.

Obviously Murphy is back, as producer and star. So is Arsenio Hall, as trusty sidekick Semmi (and a bunch of other roles). Also back: the stately James Earl Jones as King Jaffe Joffer; Shari Headley as Lisa (a seriously underwritten role); and Louie Anderson as Maurice. John Amos is back as Lisa's dad, still ripping off McDonald's. And of course the My-T-Sharp barbershop crew is back in Queens.

A new presence is the casually appealing Jermaine Fowler as Lavelle, Akeem's previously unknown son. Celebrity guests include a highly amusing Wesley Snipes as flamboyant General Izzi, leader of Nexdoria (next door); Tracy Morgan as Lavelle's uncle; and Jones as his uninhibited mother. Another "Saturday Night Live" face, Colin Jost, makes the most of a brief cameo.

Again, it all feels like a 30th reunion — maybe because it IS one — where the liquor flows, old stories are rehashed, the men haven't aged quite as well as the women, the kids steal the show, and by the end you're happy to have gone but feel no need to be at the next one.

"Coming 2 America," an Amazon Studios release, has been rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America "for crude and sexual content, language and drug content." Running time: 110 minutes. Two stars out of four.

MPAA definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned, some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



AN UPGRADED CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, eight new pickleball courts, and two new outdoor basketball courts would also be created between the youth baseball at Morton Field by Bancroft Avenue and the Rise parking area.

Town of Reading
Birch Meadow Park Master Plan

SUMMARY OF FEATURES

ATHLETIC CAPACITY/AMENITIES	EXISTING	PROPOSED
SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS	2	4
NATURAL GRASS FIELDS	4	2
FOOTBALL	1-2	2-3
SOCCER	1-3	2-3
BASEBALL	1	1
SOFTBALL	3	3
BATTING TUNNELS	2	4
YOUTH BASEBALL	1	1
BOYS LACROSSE	3	3
GIRLS LACROSSE	1	2
LACROSSE WALL	✖	✓
FIELD HOCKEY	2	3
BASKETBALL COURTS	1	2
PICKLEBALL COURTS	3	8
TENNIS COURTS (EXISTING TO REMAIN)	6	6
ROPES COURSE (UPGRADE/CERTIFY EXISTING)	✓	✓
SPORTS LIGHTING* (# OF LIGHTED FIELDS)	3	6
SCOREBOARDS*	4	7

Reading

From page B-1

School parking area. The first-phase would also include the construction of the restroom building and the outdoor pavilion seating.

According to Novak, whose Needham firm was commissioned after town officials weighed various Birch Meadow Park improvement options over the past decade, that initial project would hit all of the public's most coveted improvements.

In particular, during no fewer than five previous surveys conducted by town officials between 2004 and 2019, the general public listed new restrooms, expanded turf playing areas, and pedestrian amenities as their top wishlist items.

"One of the interesting things we found is that each one of these surveys generally revealed the same results," said Novak. "Not only will this project include a building and a walkway, but it hits on all the major elements the community would like to see."

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JOBS

Executive Director

Description: The Burlington (MA) Housing Authority is seeking highly qualified and experienced applicants for the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director is responsible for the management of 105 State Chapter 667 public housing units, 2 units of State Chapter 705 housing, 93 Federal Housing Choice Vouchers and 2 additional private managed units. The candidate should be familiar with both Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Requirements and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Federal Housing Programs.

Qualifications:

1. Four years' experience in public or private housing, community development, public administration, nonprofit administration, or a related field that demonstrates strong management and organizational skills. Knowledge of the principles and practices of housing management, finances, and maintenance systems in public or private housing is desired. One year experience overseeing at least three (3) staff persons, or as a significant project leader, or program administration is required. Excellent written and verbal communication skills required. Knowledge of laws regulating State and Federal housing programs is desired. Strong organizational and personnel management skills desired.Experience working with people of various socio-economic backgrounds. While not required for hiring, certification as a property manager or similar classification by a nationally recognized housing or real estate organization or by certification as a MPHA of a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Housing and Community Development (DHCD)-approved Massachusetts Public Housing Administrator Certification Program is desirable or must be obtained within the first year of employment. Diverse applicants are encouraged to apply. Required work hours: 37.5 hours per week.

2. Working knowledge of fiscal management, including grant procurement, maintenance systems, personnel and administrative management systems in public or private housing. Proven leadership ability, and skill necessary to provide management consultation, guidance, and advice to officials on a broad range of public housing programs.

3. Bondable

4. Demonstrate sensitivity to the problems and concerns of Resident Groups and the needs of people of various socio-economic backgrounds.

Salary Range:Salary is commensurate with experience and education and negotiable to a maximum of $87,020. The position will include excellent benefits in accordance with Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines.

Location: Burlington, MA

Instructions: The candidates will be subject to certain qualification verification prior to employment. More detailed information will be required of applicants that advance to the next level of consideration. Submit a cover letter and resume by email to DVMainsail@gmail.com and/or mail to D&V MainSail, P.O. Box 3571, South Attleboro, MA 02073. The deadline for receipt of applications is March 22, 2021 by close of business. Late applications will not be accepted.

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Athletes & Activities

By: Steve Algeri

• **MIDDLESEX EAST SPORTS WEEKLY TRIVIA:** Jackie Bradley Jr. wore three different uniform numbers during his eight-year career as a member of the Boston Red Sox. See how many of them you can name.

Answer appears below:

MIAA tournaments for the spring season looking like a reality

Come this June there will likely be an MIAA sectional tournament. The return of an MIAA-sponsored sectional tournaments for the spring season moved a step closer on Monday.

In a virtual meeting, the MIAA's Tournament Management Committee voted, 22-0, to approve a subcommittee's recommendations for a structure for tournament play. The recommendations still need to go through the Sports Medicine Committee and COVID-19 Task Force this week, as well as the Board of Directors, which meets Friday to approve modifications for any sports that will be able to play during the spring season beginning Monday, April 26.

Sports to be held in the spring include baseball, softball, tennis, lacrosse and wrestling.

At its previous meeting Feb. 24, the TMC voted to create a subcommittee to come up with a proposal for a sectional spring tournament format. The entire spring season in 2020 was lost due to the pandemic.

All schools may opt in to the tournament; there will be no qualifying standards (winning percentage), or minimum number of games that must be played. There will still be the existing North, South, Central and West sectionals. Seeding will be based on winning percentage. The higher seeded team will be the host team. The cutoff date is June 15. Tournaments will begin Saturday, June 19 and run as long as through Wednesday, June 30.

Another interesting note is teams that opt-out of the tournament, or are eliminated, can still continue playing games that they schedule on their own through June 30.

Although not entirely firmed up, the spring season is expected to allow for two spectators per player.

National Women's Hockey League will host playoffs at Warrior Ice Arena

The completion of the National Women's Hockey League (NWHL) Isobel Cup Playoffs, presented by Discover, will take place March 26-27 at Warrior Ice Arena in Brighton, Massachusetts with four teams competing for the championship live on NBCSN. These telecasts will mark the first women's professional hockey league championship games to air on a major national network in the U.S. The announcement was made today by NWHL Commissioner Tyler Tumminia.

The Isobel Cup Playoffs, previously scheduled in February, return with enhanced health and safety protocols and enforcement, after a short hiatus due to COVID-19 cases.

"International Women's Day is the perfect time to promote our athletes who will have the platform to make 'HERstory' by finishing what they started in a safe environment," said Tumminia. "It means a great deal to our athletes to have the opportunity to compete to lift the Isobel Cup and to be supported by partners who are committed to growing the women's game. We extend our appreciation to the Boston Bruins, NBCSN, Twitch, and our sponsors – especially Discover – for making this possible. Hockey fans will be inspired by the skill and dedication of our athletes, but we're all especially excited about the message this sends to the young girls and boys who will be watching."

Earlier this season, Discover Financial Services (NYSE: DFS) and the NWHL announced a landmark partnership making Discover the Official Credit Card of the NWHL. It is a significant step for the league which designates 50 percent of league wide sponsorship revenue to help increase player salaries.

Bay State Games partners with high school athletic associations

Bay State Games is excited to announce new partnerships with the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization (MCSAO) and New England Preparatory School Athletic Conference (NEPSAC). Bay State Games has a long history with the Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors Association, and now with this new partnership with the MCSAO and NEPSAC, BSG is hoping to reach all Massachusetts high school students.

Both the MCSAO and NEPSAC organize athletic championships for their respective leagues and reach thousands of student-athletes every year. Bay State Games hopes this partnership will help share athletic and educational opportunities to every high school student-athlete in Massachusetts.

"The MCSAO is very excited to partner with an organization like the Bay State Games. Working together we are hopeful to provide more opportunities for student-athletes to compete in different high-level athletic tournaments and venues," says Drew Betts, Co-Executive Director of the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization. "In addition, we are pleased that this will be additional avenues for student athletes within the MCSAO to work with the Bay State Games to promote teamwork and sportsmanship in support of the Games mission."

Of the new partnership, NEPSAC President George Tahan said, "We at NEPSAC are thrilled to be able to partner with the Bay State Games and help afford NEPSAC student-athletes with additional opportunities to participate in a number of sports and event offerings. NEPSAC's principle purpose aligns seamlessly with the Bay State Games mission of 'promoting personal development, education, physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship' and we at NEPSAC look forward to long and rewarding relationship."

Offering opportunities to compete in Bay State Summer and Winter Games events, Future Leaders Scholarship Program, High School Ambassador Program, and Sportsmanship Program as well as coaching opportunities for high school coaches is the goal of this partnership.

"Ensuring that all high school student-athletes in Massachusetts are aware of and have access to all Bay State Games programs is an important goal of our organization," said Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. "These collaborations with the NEPSAC and MCSAO will help us achieve this goal and highlight the outstanding athletes, coaches, and administrators from both organizations.

Answer to this week's question: Jackie Bradley Jr. wore numbers 44, 25 and 19 .

• **DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T?** If you have information about a local athlete that you would like to see appear in this column, please email it to sports@dailytimesinc.com.

HomeNewsHere RECIPE

Slow-Cooker Corned Beef Dinner



A ST. PATRICK'S DAY FAVORITE - Corned beef, potatoes and carrots are a delicious combo often served up on St. Patrick's Day. However, this recipe is so good we think you should make it any day of the year. Who wouldn't enjoy tender, spiced beef with steamed root vegetables in a flavorful broth? It's perfect as a cozy dinner in the winter, and corned beef leftovers are perfect for a Reuben sandwich the next day.

Ingredients

- 6 medium carrots, cut into 1-inch-thick slices (3 cups)
- 4 medium potatoes, unpeeled, cut into 1-inch pieces (4 cups)
- 1 large onion, cut into thin wedges
- 1 corned beef brisket (2 to 2 1/2 lb)
- 5 to 6 cups water
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper
- 6 whole cloves
- 1 dried bay leaf

STEPS

1. In 5- to 6-quart slow cooker, mix carrots, potatoes and onion.
2. If necessary, cut corned beef brisket to fit into slow cooker; place over vegetables.

Add enough of the water to cover. If brisket is packaged with spice packet, add contents of spice packet and omit pepper, cloves and bay leaf. If not, add pepper, cloves and bay leaf.

3. Cover; cook on Low setting 10 to 12 hours.
4. Remove and discard bay leaf. Remove brisket from slow cooker; place on serving platter. Cut brisket into thin slices. With slotted spoon, place vegetables in serving bowl.

EXPERT TIPS

Since the shape of corned beef can vary, halve or trim it so it easily fits in the slow cooker and is covered with water. Uncovered portions will cook more slowly and may be dry.

Corned beef is made from a cut of beef called brisket, which is a tough muscular cut that can be delicious when slow cooked, as it is here. To make corned beef, brisket is cured in a spiced brine—spices may include anything from the traditional bay leaf and cloves included here to red pepper flakes and Worcestershire sauce. The curing gives corned beef its distinctive pink color and spiced flavor. The "corn" in corned beef refers to the large-grain salt that's typically used in the brine.

• Real Estate Transfers •

BURLINGTON

59 Center St #303 was sold to Lemmo, Anthony by Barron Dorothy W Est and Barron, Richard W for $227,500 on 02/16/21

1 Marjorie Rd was sold to Perry, Eric and Perry, Chelsea by Zermani Const Co Inc for $760,000 on 02/19/21

21 Stoneybrook Rd was sold to Noci, Martin and Noci, Darlene by 21 Stony Brook Road NT and Lemmo, Anthony for $540,000 on 02/16/21

69 Winn St was sold to 69 Winn LLC by Womar RT 2 and Wojcik, Richard J for $475,000 on 02/19/21

NORTH READING

14 Hillview Rd was sold to Voto, Robert S and Macone, John by Senneville, Adrienne T for $500,000 on 02/16/21

19 Pleasant St was sold to Wesemann, Randi and Wesemann, Christopher by Maidment, Gary T and Maidment, Denise L for $655,000 on 02/16/21

READING

57 Augustus Ct #3004 was sold to Anand, Bhavneet K by Sigal, Marina for $417,000 on 02/19/21

87 Bancroft Ave #87 was sold to Han, Haewon R and Lam, Andy C by Kealy, Elizabeth for $480,000 on 02/19/21

20 Coakley Way was sold to Murray, Allison K and Tobin, Taylor A by Reading Townhouse Dev for $1,175,000 on 02/19/21

1207 Main St was sold to CJM Builders Inc by North Ventures Inc for $440,550 on 02/17/21

25 Prospect St was sold to Czepiel, Matthew and Didonato, Ashton by Patricia Crowley IRT and Obrien, Claire for $665,000 on 02/16/21

8 Sanborn St #4001 was sold to Goodreau, Rachel M by 136 Haven Street LLC for $241,900 on 02/19/21

STONEHAM

21 Broadway was sold to Brankovic, Stefan R and Brankovic, Nektar by Chiodi, Maria and Chiodi, Stephen for $660,000 on 02/16/21

150 Main St #8 was sold to Bowers, Alan C and Bowers, Susan L by Syme, Nicholas A for $220,000 on 02/19/21

TEWKSBURY

70 Mystic Ave was sold to Tamagna, Alexander M and Tamagna, Giavanna M by Bracken, Lucas and Migliacci, Samantha for $430,000 on 02/16/21

2 Neptune St was sold to Aneus, Vilia and Aneus, Jean M by Hicks, Allen J and Hicks, Joanne J for $426,000 on 02/17/21

55 S Rhoda St was sold to Jamojoe LLC by Berman, Jennifer for $300,000 on 02/17/21

1173 Shawsheen St was sold to Howe Dianne Est and Howe, Shari L by Simao, Alan and Howe, Dori L or $380,000 on 02/16/21

410 Woburn St was sold to Heider, James A by Gay, Michael F and Regan, James S for $350,000 on 02/18/21

WAKEFIELD

26 Harrison Ave was sold to Punj, Pratibha and Punj, Rajesh by 26 Harrison Ave RT and Burns, John T for $975,000 on 02/17/21

11 Lake St #135 was sold to Poplawski, Sarah by Emanuelson, Gordon C for $429,000 on 02/17/21

WILMINGTON

15 Gunderson Rd was sold to Fudge, Emily and Fudge, Keith E by Poirer, Lawrence E and Poirer, Diane E for $565,000 on 02/17/21

20 King St was sold to Jed Elisma Organization by Benjamin, Manesse and StPhard, Mystral for $385,000 on 02/19/21

3 Mozart Ave was sold to Bergeron, Robert C by Bergeron, Deborah for $650,000 on 02/19/21

2 Ox Bow Dr was sold to Marinho, Fernando J and Marinho, Kelly E by Hertigage Pines LLC for $829,900 on 02/18/21

45 Washington Ave was sold to Redevelopment Assoc LLC by Oconnell Linda A Est and Pearson, Theodore H for $240,000 on 02/18/21

WINCHESTER

7 Conant Rd #14 was sold to Liu, Jia and Fang, Chao by Caparella, John J and Caparella, Anne C for $705,088 on 02/16/21

64 Highland Ave #2 was sold to Kewalramani, Reshma and Kewalramani, Vinod by Stone, Jo and Stone, Leslie for $635,000 on 02/18/21

3 Pilgrim Dr was sold to Shaw, Bradley F and Shaw, Megan C by Amos Pilgrim Winchester for $2,155,000 on 02/16/21

17 Squire Rd was sold to Bogavalli, Murali and Bogavalli, Neelima by Meiler, Lisa M for $1,010,000 on 02/16/21

WOBURN

2 Bryant St was sold to Vozzella, Celistino J and Vozzella, Angela L by Vozzella, Angela L and Tofuri, Charles A for $485,000 on 02/16/21

165 Cambridge Rd #6 was sold to Toby RT and Epstein, Michael by 165 Cambridge Dev LLC for $565,000 on 02/17/21

36 Cambridge Rd #17 was sold to Intravia-Cronin, Kaitlin by Baratta, John E and Baratta, Paul J for $395,000 on 02/18/21

17 Columbus Rd was sold to Gately, Jerome F by Siraco, Maria and Pennachio, Dominic D for $430,000 on 02/18/21

31 Duren Ave was sold to Paron, Doreen M by Amorin FT and Amorin, Walter J for $480,000 on 02/16/21

33 Eaton Ave was sold to Coady, Stephen T and Duck, Joseph T by Perry, Daniel T for $675,000 on 02/17/21

12-A Edwards Rd #12A was sold to Lama, Bijay and Thapa, Puja by Patel, Janak and Patel, Nakul for $425,000 on 02/16/21

25 Merrimac St #25 was sold to Silva, Jessica by Silva, Charles P for $325,000 on 02/16/21

39 Montvale Ave #7 was sold to Wang, Jianfu and Fu, Qihan by Nachman, Susan and Elicker, Monica for $224,000 on 02/16/21

80 N Warren St #3 was sold to Desrochers, Normand J by Mclaughlin W H Jr Est and Mclaughlin, Michael J for $195,000 on 02/16/21

16 Wheeling Ave was sold to Anna Lotan USA Inc by Wheeling Ave RT and Drooker, Steven for $2,655,000 on 02/16/21

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Tewksbury Police Log

Male party arrested for shoplifting at Home Depot

Monday, March 1

12:02 a.m. - Caller reported there was an erratic operator traveling on Main Street northbound by Tewksbury Country Club. It was put out to the police. They were sent. Party checked out OK.

3:29 p.m. - Caller reported damage to her vehicle at Archstone Avenue. Police sent and filed a report.

4:28 p.m. - A 911 caller for a male in a grey hoodie in the area of Walmart in the middle of the street. Police sent. No one who matched the description was in the area.

5 p.m. - Online report of unemployment fraud at Katie Way. Police attempted to contact reporting party by phone, but no answer. Log entry only.

Tuesday, March 2

12:53 a.m. - Power outage at Adams Road. Police sent and checked for any wires down. No hazards, cleared.

1:06 p.m. - A 911 call from Holiday Inn for a dispute between the caller from the business and another party. Police sent and sent an ambulance for two drug PC's. Ambulance sent. Two females transported to Saints with PD in tow. Officer filed a report.

5:30 p.m. - Loss prevention reported two shoplifters in the office at Walmart. Police sent and filed a report.

5:45 p.m. - Walk-in party requested to speak with an officer regarding missing mail from his business at East Street. Police sent and filed a report.

Wednesday, March 3

9:22 a.m. - Police sent to Secor Way for vehicle parked in the road. Police spoke to the owner who were moving their vehicles.

9 p.m. - Caller reported his neighbor upstairs was making a lot of noise running around her unit at Archstone Avenue. Police and ambulance sent. Both parties were spoken to.

10:08 p.m. - Caller reported an assault at Holiday Inn. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

Thursday, March 4

4:48 p.m. - Police transported one back to the station under arrest at Highwood Drive. Angel Robles, 38, of 35 Burned St. in Lowell, was arrested and charged with two counts of distribute class B cocaine drugs and a parole warrant.

5:50 p.m. - A 911 hang up from the Pinnacle Stree. On call back staff reported a disturbance with resident. Police sent and filed a report.

9:04 p.m. - Caller reported possible intoxicated driver at Main Street. Police sent but gone on arrival.

Friday, March 5

9:57 a.m. - Female caller requested to speak with an officer as she reported she was assaulted this morning at Marriott Residence Inn. She was in the ER at Saint Campus. Officer filed a report.

10:55 a.m. - Female caller requested officer respond to Motel 6 because there was a party in room 233. Police sent. The caller left prior to their arrival. There was a party there. Police filed a report.

3:59 p.m. - Caller reported erratic driver in a grey sedan, though no license plate was given and no further description was provided.

7 p.m. - Caller stated she was involved in a road rage incident and the party followed her to the Walmart and slashed her tire. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

Saturday, March 6

4:40 a.m. - A 911 caller at extended Stay stated that she can't get in touch with his son stating that he went to the hospital at Extended Stay America. Police sent and ambulance sent him to the Saints Hospital. Police filed a report.

11:11 a.m. - A 911 caller reported another customer yelled at her at Cracker Barrel Old Country Store. Police sent. It was a dispute over a spot in lane. All parties left.

1:31 p.m. - A 911 call from loss prevention reported a shoplifter at Home Depot. Police sent. The party left the items in the store and started to drive off in a green van. Police off with the party in the parking lot. Rickey Smith, 54, of 77 Crosby St. in Lowell, was arrested and charged with shoplifting more than $250 by asportation.

Sunday, March 7

8:42 a.m. - Caller reported an unwanted party at Tewksbury Sports Club yelling at employees. Police sent and filed a report.

5:09 p.m. - A 911 caller from the Chandler Street at East Street reported an erratic driver going south on Main Street, look a left on Chandler heading towards East Street. Caller stated the vehicle was slowing down and swerving into the other lane. Caller was no longer behind the vehicle.

Wilmington Police Log

Two suspected of robbing CVS at knifepoint

Friday, February 26:

8:30 a.m: Mark Sweeney of 78 Jean Ave. in Lowell was issued a summons for operating a vehicle with a license suspended for OUI and a failure to stop or yield at a stop sign.

10:23 a.m: On Lowell Street, a white 2016 Nissan Altima went off of the roadway in some snow near the tennis courts. A plow was requested, but the vehicle was able to get out on its own.

6:29 p.m: A caller on Concord Street reported an erratic driver in a grey 2003 Acura RL was swerving across the road and almost hitting several vehicles head on. The vehicle was stopped near the train tracks on Concord Street, and Colin O'Reilly of 119 Gosbart St. in Portsmouth, NH was arrested for operating under the influence of drugs, marked lanes violations, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and possession of a Class A drug. He was eventually bailed.

Saturday, February 27:

5:09 p.m: A father and son walked into the police department and asked for advice about the sale of a black 2006 Ford F-350 in Rhode Island that was a lemon, unable to pass inspection. They also asked for the awareness of police regarding the resale of the car, which ultimately went smoothly at the Friendship Lodge on Church Street.

6:44 p.m: A caller at Lucci's Supermarket Plaza on Lowell Street reported that a hit and run had taken place in the parking lot at 4:20 p.m. involving a grey 2011 Honda Civic.

9:23 p.m: An officer on Concord Street was flagged down by a house sitter who believed some things were out of place. It was ultimately discovered that a relative had come and set up some decorations earlier.

Sunday, February 28:

2:48 a.m: A caller on Canal Street reported a backhoe was being operated on the road in the early morning and believed it belonged to a nearby address. Police went to the house and advised the resident that he should wait until morning to finish clearing his driveway.

6:59 a.m: On I-93 Southbound, a vehicle was involved in a rollover crash with injuries. Fire department and state police were called in, with the state police taking charge of the incident.

12:31 p.m: A party walked into the police station and reported a silver Ford Taurus had been parked near his house on Church Street for a few hours, where the resident believed they were taking pictures of his home. Police asked to be informed of any new incidents involving the car.

8:49 p.m: A caller on Columbia Street reported harassing phone calls by a person with a blocked caller I.D. who constantly called their cell phone and blew a whistle.

Monday, March 1:

9:27 a.m: The driver of a black 2010 Infiniti G37 was issued a citation and had their car towed after they drove with a revoked license on Route 125 and Ballardvale Street.

7:01 p.m.: A resident on Avalon Drive requested advice regarding her recent purchase of a 2006 black Ford F-350 in Rhode Island. She was told that it was a civil matter that needed to be taken up with Rhode Island Police.

7:15 p.m: A resident of Horseshoe Lane called to complain about an incessantly barking small dog. The animal had been barking for hours and was a recurring problem. The owner of the dog then claimed that her neighbors had been harassing her about said dog and its barking.

10:07 p.m: A tree was down in the road on Main Street, damaging a guardrail and limiting the traffic to one lane. Massachusetts DOT and Massachusetts Highway were both informed.

Tuesday, March 2:

5:56 a.m: A caller reported that a large tree was blocking the entrance to Avalon Oaks on Avalon Drive, preventing all access in and out of the area. Maintenance staff were notified and a representative of Avalon Oaks came out to oversee the clearing.

8:32 a.m: A caller on Marion Street reported a tree had fallen on a log cabin near Eleanor Drive, causing minor damage to the roof. The residents called and spoke to an officer, who advised them to reach out to the Building Inspector.

2:57 p.m: Thomas Brian Burke of 1606 Huckleberry Ct. in Peabody was issued a summons for operating with a suspended license after his grey 2020 Jeep Grand Cherokee was towed for a flat tire on Salem Street.

Wednesday, March 3:

12:46 a.m: A caller from CVS on Main Street reported that a male and female party had shoplifted several items from the store at knifepoint before taking off in a white 2008 Jeep Commander. Police checked the area and then contacted neighboring towns to join in the search. Eventually, the suspects were located in Burlington, identified by a witness, and the stolen items were returned. Reagan Lois Desantis of 25 Briarwood Lane Apartment #11 in Marlborough was then arrested on three counts of shoplifting by asportation and assault with a dangerous weapon.

8:50 a.m: Animal Control officers followed up on a complaint about a dog who had broken its leash and gone after a dog walker. The animal's owner was then advised about using the proper leash for the dog's weight and type.

7:27 p.m: On Ballardvale Street, a blue 2002 Volkswagen Jetta was towed. This occurred after its driver, Savean Ly of 221 Cross St. in Lowell, was issued a summons for a marked lanes violation, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration, and having an uninsured vehicle.

8:58 p.m: A caller on Main Street reported that a group of sports cars were racing up and down the road. Police eventually found a group of approximately 50 of the vehicles hanging out in the plaza by Market Basket, but with no racing occurring. Eventually, the cars dispersed.

Thursday, March 4:

4:49 p.m: On Concord Street and I-93 Northbound Ramp 39, a grey 2011 Dodge Ram 150, an orange 2020 Nissan Rogue, and a white 2005 Lexus RX 330 were involved in a motor vehicle collision with no reported injuries.

5:06 p.m: Andrew Davidson of 38 North Main St. in Plaistow, NH was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, driving without a license, and speeding. His white 2013 Volkswagen CC was then towed on Shawsheen Avenue.

Daily Times Chronicle
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Spring HOME IMPROVEMENT

PART ONE 2021

SPECIAL SECTION



Published
April 2021
in Burlington, Reading, Stoneham, Wakefield, Winchester, Woburn, Wilmington and Tewksbury

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Wilmington SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

Wilmington resident Frank Cain built elite backyard facility

Blackstone Hockey Rink a big hit with the kids

By DAN ZIMMERMAN
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

WILMINGTON -- Over the past year, as many area communities sought the means to keep their youth off the couch and active in some form or another, there certainly was no shortage of well-meaning citizens willing to devote their time and money toward that end.

Frank Cain took that worthy cause a step further, transforming his Wilmington back yard into an actual skating rink, complete with walls, a lighting system for nighttime use, and red and blue LED-lighting beneath the ice surface to mark the lines. Cain dubbed his rink the "Blackstone Ice Arena," named for the street where he makes his home with wife Becky and his two children.

"I've been building this rink each winter for about five or six years," said Cain, as he prepared to join his seven-year-old daughter Samantha at her learn-to-skate session. "Last year, it was about 75-feet in length but this year, with COVID-19 and added spacing in mind, we expanded to over a hundred feet."

In order to build a rink of that scope, which actually measures 112-feet in length and 50-feet in width, Cain resorted to removing a number of trees. "I wanted to make it as big as possible, for the kids," he said.

Since its construction was completed, the rink has been a huge draw for area youth seeking an enjoyable and safe venue to skate, as well as participate in actual organized games. Last week, for instance, Cain and Wilmington Youth Hockey President Steven Doherty welcomed as many as twenty-five kids to a round-robin mini-tournament.

"What we did was play a three-on-three-on-three tournament," explained young Frank, 12, who skates with the Wilmington PeeWee 2's. "Two teams went first and whoever won would progress to the semifinals and so on, until reaching the finals."

Cain, 43, explained that the Town of Wilmington was unable to land a contract with the Ristuccia Arena, likely due to the restrictions placed on facilities where typically, large groups of people tend to congregate. Without the benefit of an indoor ice facility, skaters and hockey programs would usually turn to area ponds. But in recent years, warmer winters with wildly fluctuating temperatures have made skating on lakes and ponds a risky proposition.

"Years ago, that's what we did," recalled Cain, who is currently an assistant coach with the WYH PeeWee 2's. "We played pond hockey. But they don't freeze like they used to. I think we got out on Silver Lake just once this season. So, my rink supplements the lack of safe places for kids to skate."

That would include, of course, his daughter Samantha and son Frank, who is a member of the PeeWee 2's, coached by Paul McDonald.

"I think having an ice rink in our back yard is great," said Cain's soon-to-be-eight year-old daughter Samantha. "The best part of it is being able to have friends over to skate. It's also nice that I can skate anytime I want to."



Wilmington resident Frank Cain (seated left center with daughter Samantha) built an elite hockey rink in his backyard and has allowed many of the Wilmington Youth Hockey kids as well as others to use it. On Sunday night, the rink was jammed packed with a large group of skaters including: back row from left: Andrew LaRosee, Henry Almeda, Collin O'Hearn, Jonathan Cavanaugh, Devin MacDonald, Colin Doherty, Coach Paul MacDonald, Emerick O'Brien, Cameron Thompson, Jake Arsenault, David McDonough-Padden, Dean Ciampa, Rebecca Cain and Coach Jay Mainini; Middle row from left, Cody Mastronardi, Nevan O'Brien, Cody MacDonald, Frank and Samantha Cain, Connor Jamieson and Patrick Jameison; Lying Down: Frank Cain Jr., Adeline Arsenault, Ryan Arsenault and Dylan Mainini. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

"Honestly, I haven't yet figured out if my kids have more fun or if I'm having more fun watching them skate," Cain said.

Most of the skating activity at Cain's Blackstone Ice Arena takes place after dark, when temperatures tend to dip and the ice surface solidifies. One might gather that, with the bright lights and the commotion, nearby neighbors would raise concern. This is not the case, however.

"I have great neighbors and they're all very supportive of what we're doing here," he said. "Our neighbors and their children have been known to take a spin or two."

Cain, 43, grew up in nearby North Andover and was a co-captain with the Knights until graduating in 1996. He met and married Chicago-native Becky and the couple later settled in Wilmington and started a family. Becky, as it turns out, has been an integral part of maintaining the rink.

"I can't get away without mentioning how important she is," Cain stressed, with a laugh. "If the rink ice does happen to soften and a skater breaks through, she is out there in her high boots, making repairs to the liner sometimes until two-in-the-morning."

"I enjoy it because we have an opportunity to watch our kids play, together, as a couple," said Becky. "During this pandemic, with the rinks allowing only one parent to enter, some of us moms have been missing out. But with this rink in our back yard, it's nice to get everyone together.

According to WYH's Doherty, Cain has done far more than build a hockey rink.

"This is so unlike other sports, like soccer or basketball where all you need is a field or a ball and a hoop," said Doherty. "In hockey, there's only so much ice time available and this additional access is appreciated by the kids. My son played until after midnight the other night. Thanks to Frank, many of these kids are building memories that will last a lifetime."

Doherty went on to credit Cain with his focus on safety during the ongoing pandemic. He pointed out that the kids wear helmets and masks, nobody enters Cain's home, and parents who are observing spread out around the rink circumstance, some in lawn chairs.

"We were playing the other night, mostly boys," said Doherty. "And then their younger sisters many between the ages of 4-8, showed up and took a turn. Some expressed a desire to play more hockey. It was inspirational. Whether he realizes it or not, Frank Cain has built in his back yard a feeder system for Wilmington Youth Hockey and beyond."

In the not-too-distant future, there might well be a hockey player who successfully climbed through the ranks and reached the big stage in the NHL but holds fond memories of a few midnight spins he took on Frank Cain's Blackstone Arena.



Above, Dean Ciampa (left) and Jake Arsenault battle for a puck and below, Adeline Arsenault (Left) age 5, and Samantha Cain age 7, get in some stick practice during Sunday night's event held at the Blackstone Rink in town. (photos by JoeBrownphotos.com).





Frank Cain, who built this fabulous rink, drops the ceremonial first puck during Sunday night's game. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

Wilmington, Tewksbury and Shawsheen Tech have combined for five state titles and 70 league titles

Three schools and so much hockey tradition

By JAMIE POTE
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Earlier this winter season, the Town Crier featured Tewksbury Memorial High School boys hockey coach Derek Doherty, who won his 250th game, while we also reprinted stories on Hall of Famers Bob McCabe (Tewksbury) and Bill Gordon (Shawsheen).

In all three cases, the numbers and accomplishments of those three were astonishing.

Then we reprinted the 1983-'84 WHS Boys Hockey team's season. Over the next few weeks we plan on re-running the 07-'08 and the two state championship seasons in 2012 and '13, as well as the two Tewksbury state championship seasons 1995 and 2011), and hopefully the one for Shawsheen Tech (1984).

And that got us thinking ...

Wilmington, Tewksbury and Shawsheen Tech all have an enriched tradition of boys hockey with an enormous amount of wins, league and state titles. The talent that has come through the programs over the last 50-60 years is truly incredible. There's a handful of guys who went on to play professionally, and others who went on to play at elite collegiate programs, whether it be Providence, UMass-Lowell, West Point, Merrimack and St. Lawrence University. Also, there's some former outstanding stars who after their playing days were over, got into the coaching ranks at a high level with Bob Ware at UMass-Lowell and Ed Walsh, who is currently the goalie coach at Northeastern University.

If you want to expand the thought and think outside of the box, how about some of the surrounding towns and the talent that programs like Billerica, Burlington and Chelmsford? Those communities have put out a wealth of talent with some players who had tremendous NHL, collegiate or high school careers. The list includes from Billerica, Tom Fitzgerald, Paul and Bob Miller, Tom Glavine and Paul Ames; from Burlington, Jay Pandolfo and Scott and Mark Fusco; and from Chelmsford, John Morris, Keith Aucoin, Phil Bourque and Jack Eichel.

In that group are Stanley Cup winners, Hobey Baker Award winners, or like Glavine, a 200-plus high school scorer who was drafted by the LA Kings but chose baseball instead and won 300-plus games and is in the Hall of Fame.

"Yeah, it's crazy and there's a lot of good hockey in the area," said longtime WHS coach Steve Scanlon. "Teams have been very successful. In the 70's there when the Bruins were winning their Stanley Cups and everything, I think hockey took off around here and kind of never left. The Merrimack Valley has always been such a pretty big hot bed for hockey. Then we produced a lot of good quality kids, even pros out of this area. You think about the Millers out of Billerica, good players just all over the place. There's lot of college kids and some pro stuff."

THE NUMBERS

From the three programs, Wilmington, Tewksbury and Shawsheen, the numbers like we mentioned are staggering. We found records of four coaches in Wilmington with Ken Palm (1969 and 1978), Al Fessenden (1970-77), Bill Cullen ('78-91) and Steve Scanlon ('92 to present).

In two seasons, Palm finished 25-6-5 and had one league title.

In eight seasons, Fessenden finished 78-53-13, with three league titles.

In 13 seasons, we believe Cullen had an overall record of 125-101-26, with two league titles, while he took one team to the Eastern Mass Championship game and another team to the Eastern Mass semi-final game.

In 30 seasons, Scanlon has a record of 359-221-70 with 11 league championship titles, two state championship titles, three North Sectional championship titles and one state finalist trophy.

In Wilmington, since 1969, those four coaches have combined to coach 1,082 games and have an overall record of 587-381-114, including 17 league championship titles, 2 state titles, 3 North Sectional championships, while losing once in the state finals, the Eastern Mass finals, the Eastern Mass semi-finals and the North Sectional finals.

In Tewksbury, we found records on four coaches, Joe Robillard, McCabe, Ware and Doherty. There were some successful teams under John Corbett and Don Ciampa, but their overall records could not be found.

Robillard coached for four years from 1980-'81 to 1983-'84 and compiled a record of 49-21-8, with one league title.

McCabe had three different stints as head coach of the Redmen and he finished with an overall record of 151-38-7 with eight league titles, one state championship title, an Elite-8 tournament appearance, one North Sectional title and several Eastern Mass semi-final appearances. Over a span of 93 games, at one point of his coaching career, McCabe was 81-6-6.

Bob Ware took over after McCabe and his record may be off a few games, but we believe during his four years, he was 62-23 with two league titles, while playing in Division 1.

Doherty just finished his 20th season as coach and now has a record of 254-131-40, which includes one state championship, two North Sectional titles and seven league titles, while being defeated once in the state final and twice at in the sectional final.

Between the four of them, they have coached 807 games and have a combined record of 516-213-78 with two state championships, 18 league titles, three sectional championships, while falling once in the state final, twice in the sectional final and going 0-2 in the Super-8 tournament, being the first Division 2 team in the history of the tournament to compete.

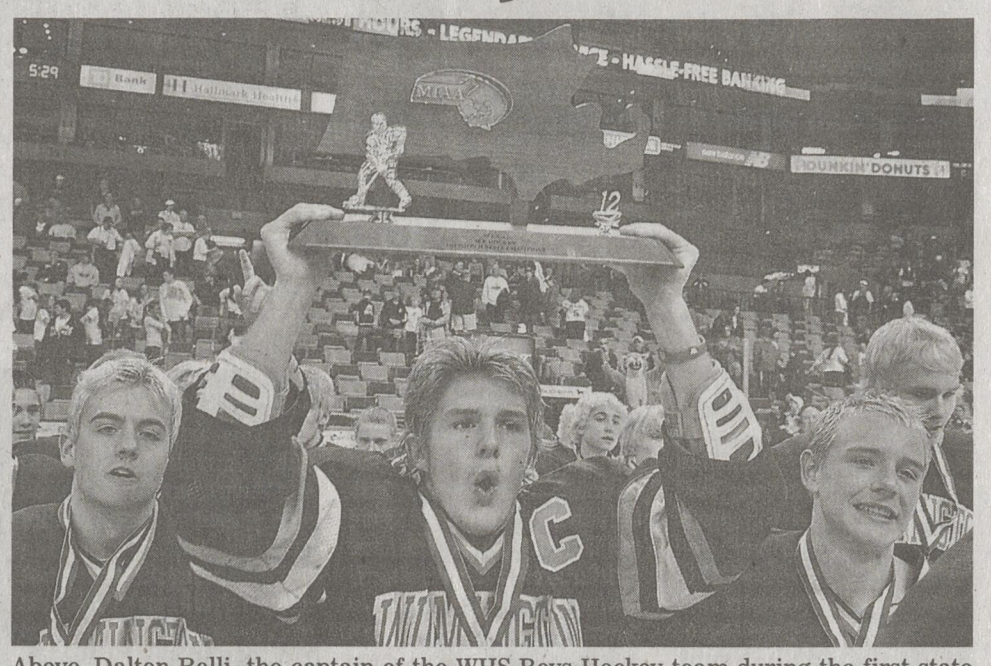
Then there's Shawsheen and we have records of the program's three coaches, Don Ayer, Gordon and Chuck Baker. Ayer coached for seven seasons and compiled a record of 107-26-7, which included five league titles and lost once in the sectional semi-finals. Bill Gordon was next and in his 27 years, he won 373 games (don't have his losses or ties), had one state championship title, won two sectional titles, won 15 league titles and also lost once in the state final. Baker has coached the last 15 years and has an overall record of 196-99-26 with 13 league titles, while losing once in the state final and once in the sectional final.

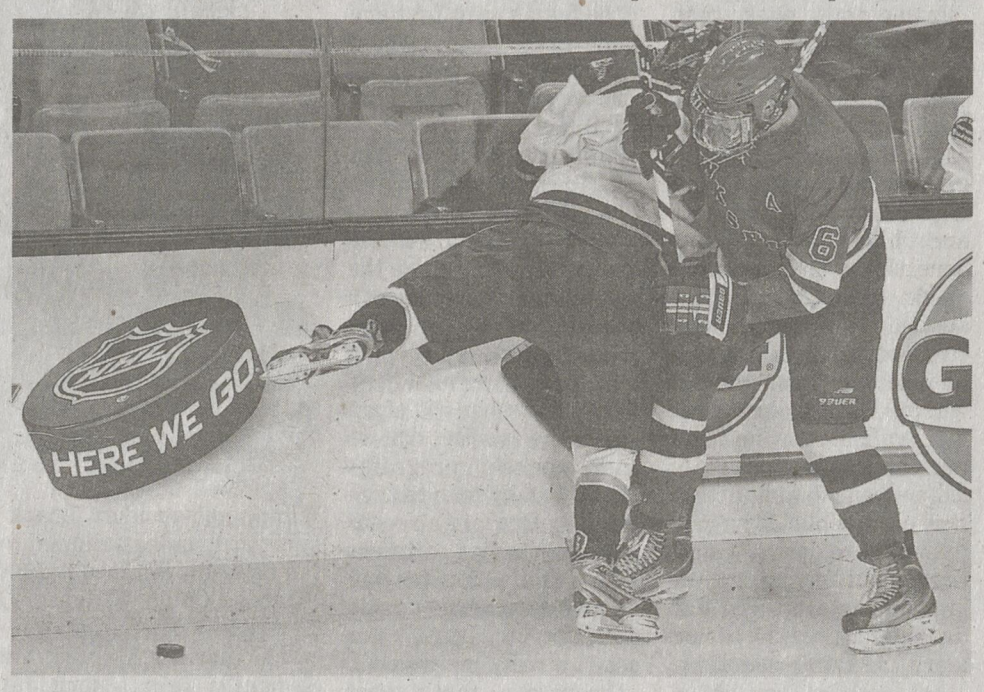
Combined those three coaches have won 676 games with one state championship title, 33 league titles with two teams losing in the state final and another in the sectional final.

So let's do the math. The eleven coaches have combined to win 1,779 games, five state championship titles and 70 league championship titles, while combining for three losses in the state finals, one in the Eastern Mass final, three more in the sectional final, as well as competing in the Super-8 tournament once.

That's a lot of winning.

"Silver Lake. We go there, we fall in and we drink the water by accident and then become good players," said Doherty with a big laugh. "There's just so many tough kids (in these communities). There's some talent there but everyone plays with a little bit of an edge and it just makes them a little bit better than everyone else, I think anyway."





Above, Dalton Rolli, the captain of the WHS Boys Hockey team during the first state championship in 2012, celebrated with the trophy at TD Garden; and below, Rob Pruyne lays a bodycheck for the Redmen during the championship game from 2011. (file photos/JoeBrownphotos.com).

TEWKSBURY HISTORY

Several weeks ago, we featured Colin Ahern as part of our 'Where Are They Now' series. Ahern is known as the best forward to ever come out of the TMHS program. He went on to play at Providence College and was drafted twice by the World Hockey Association and ended up playing a year in the ECHL.

Besides him, we believe that since 1968 when the TMHS Hockey program started, the other D1 collegiate players include Russ Mann (St. Lawrence University), Ed Hill and Greg Wilkie (University of Vermont), Kyle Favreau and Paul Botto (UMass-Lowell), Derek Petti (Merrimack) as well as Dave Wilkie and Ahern (Providence). Some of those players had brief careers, however, they still played D1 college. A number of other guys also played at UML but the program was D2 at the time.

To have eight players go from a Division 2 high school program to a D1 collegiate program, especially the likes of Providence, Merrimack and St. Lawrence is really remarkable.

"It's been an unbelievable history (here in Tewksbury)," said Doherty. "I think a big part of that used to be the youth program and I think they are starting to get back at that, trying to do Tewksbury Junior teams. We had a little bit of a gap where kids went to play in different places and some of them still go and do that now, but a lot of them now can just play for the Tewksbury Jr. Redmen with the sixth, seventh and eighth grade teams. Tim Quinn kind of controls that whole thing and he does such a great job."

SHAWSHEEN HISTORY

In 11 of the first 12 years of existence, the Rams qualified for the state tournament and you can probably count on one hand how many times the teams have missed the playoffs. In 1983-'84, the Rams captured the Division 3 (State) Eastern Mass Championship title (no Central or Western back then) behind the play of three stars, Mike Giuggio, who finished with 80 points that season and was the League MVP, as well as other league all-stars, Chris Jones, Kevin Lambert and Mike Stone.

The following year, the Rams finished 19-4-2 and were defeated in double-overtime in a complete heartbreaker by Westwood back in the (State) Eastern Mass Finals.

Before and after those two magical years, the program had tremendous success with Ron and Bob Greenberg finishing seasons with 70 or 80-something points. Then came 2008 when Baker was enjoying his third season and guided the team back to the state final, losing to Shrewsbury in the state final.

"Even though we lost, I look at this as a win-win situation for the program and the school," said Baker after that loss. "I can't thank all of the people who came out to watch us over these games. All of these fans who traveled to see us, and who paid the ticket prices, I can't thank them enough. Our fan base has gone to a new level. Our kids played for that, and I think this has been just such a great thing for not only our program, but for the school as well.

"I never thought we would be playing here but this group of kids are a very determined group, and they were that way from the get-go. All in all, this has been a great accomplishment - win or lose, it's just been such a great feeling."

WILMINGTON HISTORY

Immediately when Wilmington High started to compete in the Merrimack Valley, the Wildcats had built a strong tradition with many winning teams. Fessenden and Palm had some sensational teams in the late 60's and 70's, including league MVP Dana Tighe as the goalie and some other strong players. When asked about the tradition, Scanlon brought up two players, who have an incredible link.

"Both Ted Moran and John Harrison played here at Wilmington and then were captains at West Point and to me that's an amazing thing. From one small town, do you know how rare that would be? I don't think you would find another twosome in the country, who did that," he said.

At West Point, Harrison played from 1974-'75 to 1977-'78. He ended his career with 77 goals and 96 assists for 173 points, is number one all-time in penalty minutes with 116 and is still tied for fifth all-time in program history with hat tricks in a season of six. Moran, a defenseman, played from 1982-'83 to '85-'86, and compiled 20 goals and 60 assists for 81 points.

When Harrison played, West Point was D2, but switched up to D1 when Moran played and it's believed that he is the only player who has gone from WHS to a D1 collegiate program. Both are enshrined in the WHS Hall of Fame.

"In Division 2 and 3, we have had kids sprinkled all over the place (in different colleges), so doesn't Tewksbury and same with Billerica," said Scanlon. "Billerica probably has more Division 1 kids than Tewksbury. If you put the towns right here like Billerica, Burlington, Wilmington, the Tech, Tewksbury, as well as Woburn and Reading, I mean you are talking about programs that have deep traditions, way back and I mean way back."

Scanlon said with each of those programs, he mentioned, certainly there's a lot of variables when it comes to the overall success.

"Youth Hockey got huge in all of the towns and stayed that way. Years ago anyway, we always had the natural environment - kids were skating all of the time. You would have the froze up lakes and (back yard rinks) and everyone just skated and that's all I can remember when we were kids. The weekends would be extremely cold and you would go out and skate all day. You don't really have that anymore."

Hopefully that can circle back, and the kids continue to hit the ice, no matter the town - Wilmington, Tewksbury, Billerica, Burlington, Chelmsford - and no matter for which school, Wilmington, Tewksbury, Shawsheen Tech or any of the other suburban towns. It would be something to see if this incredible hockey tradition carries on for another 50-60 years.

A Championship Tradition

Wilmington History

Coach	Years	Seasons	Record	League Titles
Ken Palm	1969 and 1978	2	25-6-5	1
Al Fessenden	1970 to 1977	8	78-53-13	3
Bill Cullen	1978 to 1991	13	125-101-26	2
Steve Scanlon	1992 to present	30	359-221-70	11
Totals		*53*	*587-381-114*	*17*

Tewksbury History

Coach	Years	Seasons	Record	League Titles
Joe Robillard	1981-1984	4	49-21-8	1
Bob McCabe	1980, 85-89, 94-96	9	151-38-7	8
Don Ciampa	1990-1993	4	46-17-7*	2
Bob Ware	1997-2000	4	62-23	2
Derek Doherty	2001-present	20	254-131-40	7
Totals		*41*	*562-230-85*	*20*

#John Corbett coached from 1968-1980 but we could not locate his overall record.
**Missing a few games for Ciampa's records.*

Shawsheen Tech History

Coach	Years	Seasons	Record	League Titles
Don Ayer	1972-1978	7	107-26-7	5
Bill Gordon	1979-2006	27	373 wins	15
Chuck Baker	2007-present	15	196-99-26	13
Totals		**49**	**676 wins**	**33**

Three Schools Combined

Seasons: 143; Wilmington and Tewksbury Combined Record: 1,149-611-199 with 37 league titles and four state championship titles; With Shawsheen's win total, there's 1,825 wins and 70 league titles.

Wildcats fall in four sets to Burlington in opener

By JAMIE POTE
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BURLINGTON – So much of the game of volleyball is the fundamentals, serving, passing, hitting and defending. Certainly the Wilmington High School team is young, relatively inexperienced and had just four practices together heading into Saturday morning's season opener in the abbreviated schedule. Along with a new coach, new system of playing and COVID-19 protocols, it's expected that things will take some time before the team can unite and execute those fundamental skills on a consistent basis.

That being said, there were glimpses of that great execution against Burlington, but also glimpses of that rust from not playing for over 16 months and that inexperience which led to mistakes.

After winning the first set 25-20 with very limited errors, the 'Cats lost three straight (17-25, 15-25 and 20-25) as Burlington limited its own mistakes and elevated their overall play to take the season opener, 3-1.

It seemed like Wilmington lost a lot of points with serving or serve-receive. The 'Cats lost eight total points with serves not going over the net and on the other side Burlington had 20 serves that were not returned as well as seven additional aces. That's a swing of 35 points through the four sets.

"I think the trouble wasn't as much serve-receive as it was out of system balls so we were having trouble defending on balls that were hit where we weren't expecting it to go and not necessarily off the serve because I thought the girls played well defensively," said first-year head coach Lauren Donoghue. "We have good servers and some pretty good defenders, but trying to find what works offensively for us is going to take a little time.

""We have some new hitters so it's just something that we are working on, both swinging and blocking. I think we gave up points on unforced errors and we also made some defensive errors on our part, too. It certainly wasn't covering the blockers in certain positions or covering their swingers."

In the early goings of the first set, the lead was exchanged or tied 14 different times. It was knotted at 10-10 when it was Alyssa Frucia's turn to serve and she not only got her ball over the net, but it eventually led to two points with kills from Khrystyna Fedynyak and Maddie McCarron, which gave the 'Cats the lead and they never looked back in that set.

Wilmington made it 18-12 after a kill from Meghan O'Mahony. Later on, Burlington closed it to 23-19, but another kill from McCarron before a Burlington error led to the 'Cats taking the first one.

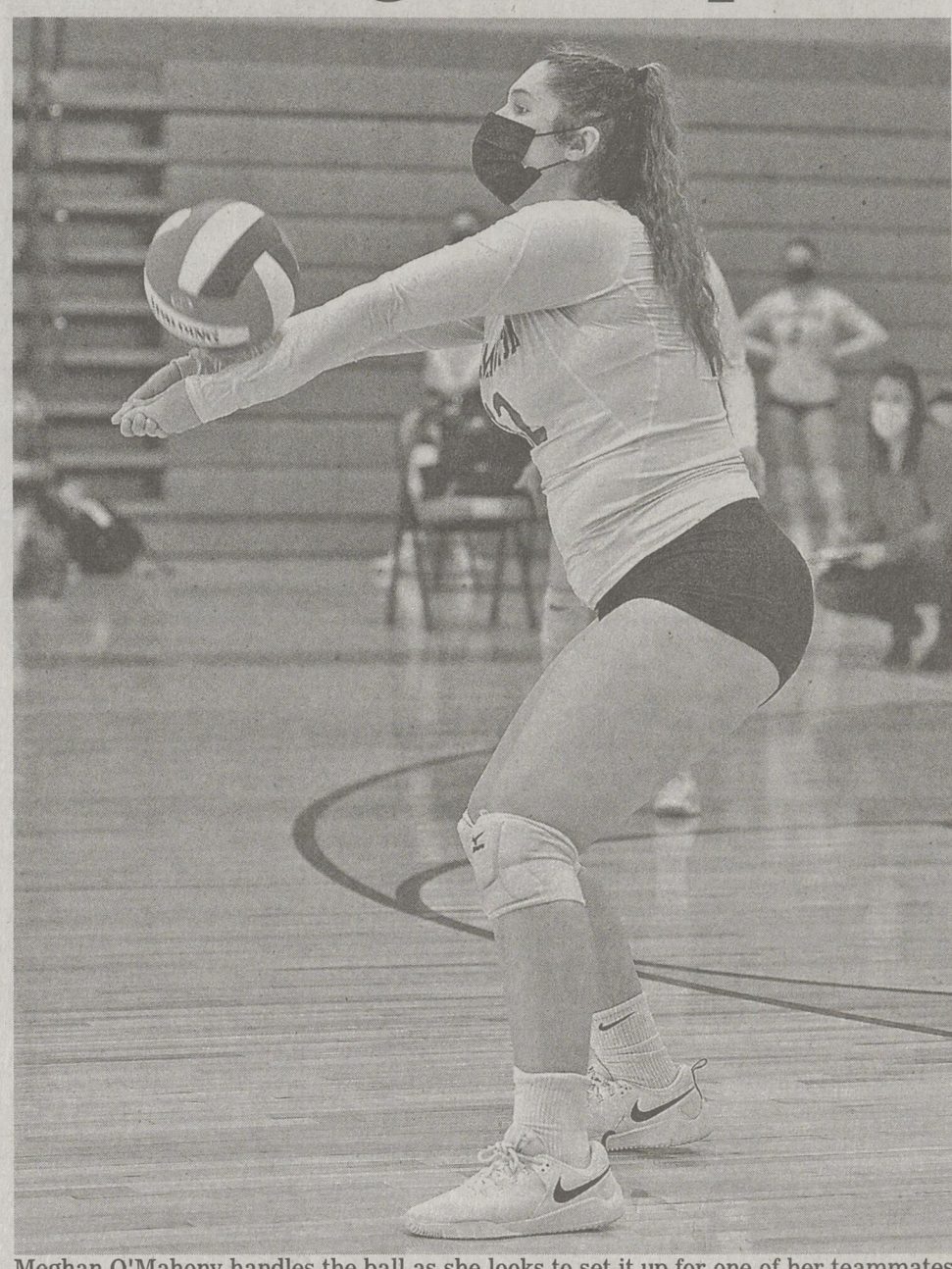
The early part of set two had five lead exchanges until Burlington went up 6-5 and went on to lead the rest of the way building leads of 10-6, 19-11 and then closing it out at 25-17.

Burlington was up 2-1 in the third set and lead the rest of the way, but game four was different. The 'Cats had leads of 7-4 and 8-7, before the game was tied at 10-10. From there it was all Burlington, who led 23-17 before a nice comeback bid by Frucia (3 straight service points) cut it to 23-20, but the Red Devils scored the final two points to win it.

"There's some work that needs to be done but overall I think it was more positive than what the girls had expected," said Donoghue. "To start the season winning the first set of your first match is pretty good, but there's work to be done and we need to take it one step at a time."

McCarron led the way with nine service points and five kills, while, Fedynyak had eight service points, as did Frucia. O'Mahony added four kills.

Wilmington will host Burlington this Saturday for a noon start.



Meghan O'Mahony handles the ball as she looks to set it up for one of her teammates during Saturday's loss to Burlington. (photos by JoeBrownphotos.com).

"It's challenging with just four practices and six returning varsity players, but today I did mix in some players, who were not returners and I think it did work well but again there's always room for improvement," said

Youth Travel Basketball teams end seasons in memorable fashions

Wilmington Travel Basketball's two 4th grade girl's teams finished their first season in a memorable fashion, as both teams made it to the Division 2 finals of the River Valley Girls Basketball League.

Both teams finished the regular season with identical records. The WIlmington Blue team, which consisted of Caitlin Barrett, Kiera Barry, Angelina Cifuentes, Pauline Douzepis, Mikayla Field, Carrie Gillis, Kate Haggerty, Callie Lamarche, Emma Mahnken, Emma Moriarty, Marley White, and Julia Zaya, defeated Haverhill 12-4 and squeaked by Reading 16-15 to make it to the finals.

The WIlmington White team, which consisted of Bridget Bloom, Nyla Chimwanda, Naomi Cowles, Isabella deOliveira, Emily Falk, Reighan Glover, Eliana Goldstein, Suki Harper, Olivia Howie, Olivia Marasca, Julia Marra, and Ava Vozzella, scored on a buzzer-beater to defeat Burlington 16-15.

With their parents watching via Facebook Live video streams, the two teams met in the finals on Sunday March 7th. In a close and entertaining game, the Blue team barely edged the White team, 12-9.

For several of these girls this was their second year participating in the travel basketball program as most had participated in the skills and drills program as third graders and also in the summer skills and drills program over the summer.

The girls dedication and hard work shows. As the girls received their first and second place medals and resumed being teammates and friends, it was clear that the real winner was Wilmington Travel Basketball, as these girls have only begun to collect trophies.

Girls 7th Grade Blue

Nothing came easy for the 7th grade girls Blue basketball team during the 2020-21 season. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team was forced to practice and play all games out of town and were not permitted to have fans in attendance.

This past Sunday's Division 2 championship game at the Mill Works sports complex in Westford was no exception. The Wildcats jumped out to an early 11-0 lead until Lowell mounted a ferocious comeback and took a 12-11 lead into halftime.

Overcoming Lowell's trapping defense, Wilmington made several clutch shots and defensive stops in the second half to come away with a 28-27 victory.

The last minutes of the game was particularly hectic as both teams frantically battled for the winning shot and Wilmington held on for an exciting win.

The 7th grade Blue team participated in a very competitive River Valley League this season. On the playoff road to the championship, Wilmington beat neighboring Burlington 39-24 in the semi-final game.

Overall, the Wilmington team play was characterized by a suffocating defense, unselfishness with the ball on offense, and a well balanced scoring attack.

The members of the 7th grade girls Blue basketball team are (in alphabetical order): Charlotte Forcina, Abby Howie, Leah Langone, Cate MacDonald, Erin McCarthy, Ali McElligott, Leah Murphy, Ava Noble, Summer Sands, Olivia Saragosa, Kristal Wells, and Maeve White.

Girls Grade 7th White

Wilmington 7th Grade Girls White wrapped up a great season this past weekend in the Girls River Valley Playoffs. They had a big win against Tewksbury in the semi-finals.

Leading the scoring charge was Shannon Barrett, Jailyn DiNuccio, and Madi Oatis. They had great ball movement and played great team defense. Bella Chavez, Hailey Spencer and Grace Johnson had great defensive pressure to help secure the win.

On Sunday's game against Methuen, Wilmington got off to a slow start but made a fierce comeback in the second half sparked by Lindsey Broussard and Giselle Olatilu scoring multiple buckets. Great defense and passing efforts by Gianna DeMedeiros, Sofia Tentindo and Mackenzie Weatherbee kept the game close right up to the end. Although they fell short these girls worked hard and had a great season.



The Wilmington 7th Grade Girls Blue Basketball team includes front row from left, Leah Langone, Kristal Wells, Abby Howie, Erin McCarthy and Summer Sands; back row from left, Maeve White, Ava Noble, Cate MacDonald, Ali McElligott, Olivia Saragosa, Charlotte Forcina and Leah Murphy. (courtesy photo).



The Wilmington 7th Grade Girls White Basketball team includes from left, Bella Chavez, Sofia Tentindo, MacKenzie Weatherbee, Hailey Spencer, Lindsey Broussard, Jailyn DiNuccio, Gianna DeMederios, Grace Johnson, Shannon Barrett, Giselle Olatilu and Madi Oatis. (courtesy photo).



The Wilmington Blue and White 4th Grade Girls teams include: top row from left, Carrie Gillis, Emma Moriarty, Kiera Barry, Caitlin Barrett, Julia Zaya, Angelina Cifuentes, Bridget Bloom, Emily Falk, Olivia Marasca, Isabella deOliveira, Nyla Chimwanda, Ava Vozzella and Suki Harper; bottom row from left, Pauline Douzepis, Callie Lamarche, Marley White, Mikayla Field, Emma Mahnken, Kate Haggerty, Olivia Howie, Julia Marra, Eliana Goldstein, Naomi Cowles and Reighan Glover. (courtesy photos).



The Shawsheen Tech Volleyball team opens the season this week behind Wilmington residents from left, Tyler Newhouse, Bianca Carso, Chloe Gaglione and Coach Kelsey Rapoza (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

Shawsheen Volleyball team ready to go

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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BILLERICA – The Shawsheen Tech Volleyball team will enter this season with the hopes of doing something they have not done in the past three seasons, namely finishing the season with a winning record.

The Rams were 5-15 last season under the direction of former coach Anne DeMarco, but there is plenty of reason for optimism as they enter this season with new coach Kelsey Rapoza at the helm.

For one thing, Rapoza, who was an assistant coach with the Rams last season, had the opportunity to learn from DeMarco, a former star at UMass Lowell. But even more importantly, the Rams will enter the season with several players who saw significant playing time last season, including five returning starters.

While everyone might be a little rusty at this point, with the cancellation of the regular fall volleyball season being pushed to the new Fall-2 season getting underway this week, the returning players, as well as the newcomers are quickly getting the hang of things.

"We have already seen a great deal of improvement in just a very short time," Rapoza said. "They are so responsive to all of the drills we are doing, and they all work their hardest. I have liked what I have seen so far, and it can only go up from here."

If that improvement continues at the pace it has started then Rapoza sees no reason why the Rams won't be successful this season.

"I do feel like we can have a winning record," Rapoza said. "I feel like we have a really great group of strong players and once we get some more of the skills down we can be very successful."

A big reason for Rapoza's optimism is the Rams starting lineup, which will feature five returning starters, including junior Chloe Gaglione of Wilmington at the middle front position. She will be joined by another Wilmington junior, Bianca Corso at right front.

Other returning starters will include junior Kayla Mirisola of Tewksbury at left front, sophomore Kiley McFadden of Tewksbury on defense and junior Darielle Wilson of Tewksbury as the middle back.

Freshman Cade Barron of Tewksbury, one of two boys on the team, will be the Rams other starer, and he will be their setter.

"They play very well together as a group, and they feed off of each other amazingly, so I feel like just having that connection alone just helps them to be successful," Rapoza said. "And it is not just the returning players. We have some players we have brought up from JV and they are fitting in very nicely with the varsity team."

Among those players who will be relied upon most heavily to substitute in will be sophomore Alexia Bonilla who will come on for Barron as times, because rules prohibit him from playing in the front row.

Senior Tyler Newhouse of Wilmington will sub into the back row for the Rams as will junior Sarah Comeau. Rapoza is looking forward to seeing what Comeau, who is coming off a terrific basketball season for the CAC champion Rams, can bring to the volleyball court.

"This is Sarah's first year ever playing volleyball, and she has been such a light for this team," Rapoza said. "Her attitude is absolutely amazing. She really does pump up the team."

Rapoza is also looking forward to seeing what Newhouse and Barron can bring to the team, as the first male members of the team. Boys are eligible to play on the girls team because Shawsheen does not have a boys volleyball team, and Rapoza is thrilled to have both Barron and Newhouse on the squad.

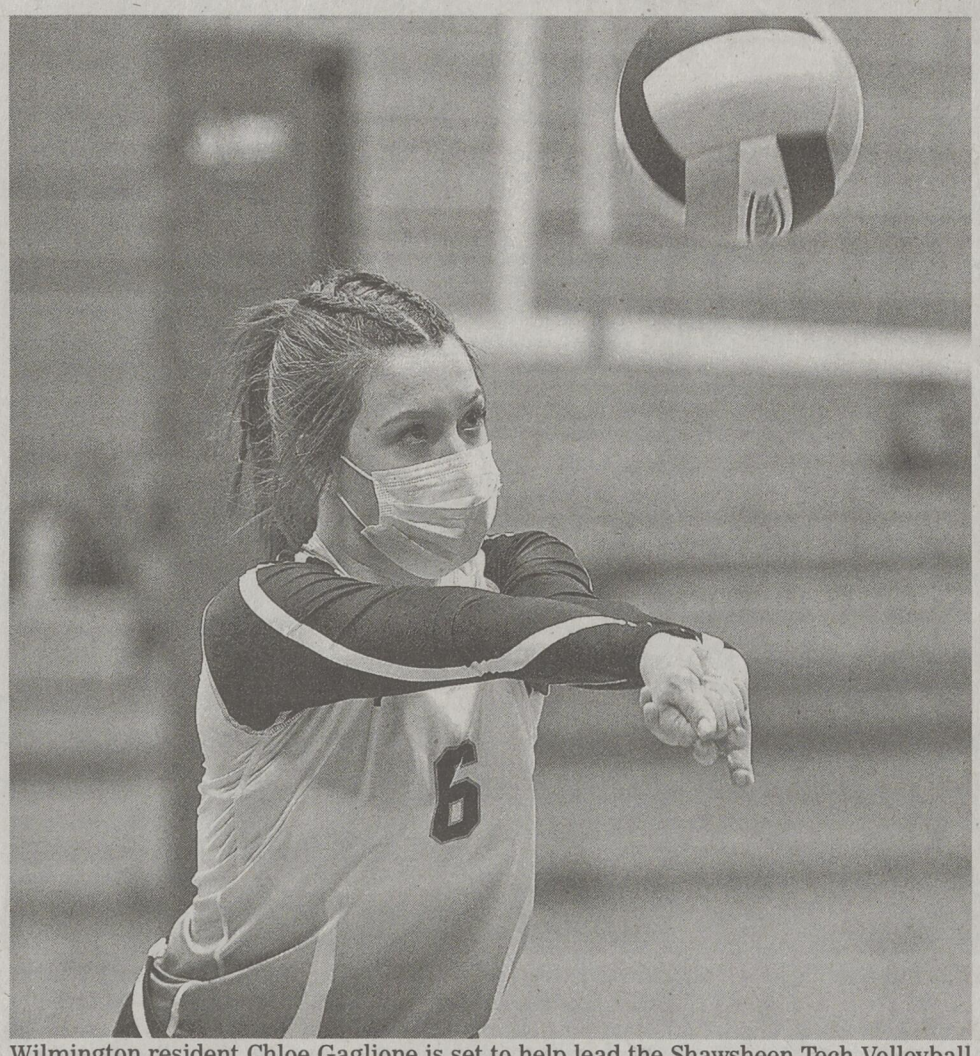
"They have also been awesome. Cade is a freshman and has been a very strong setter, hitter and server for us. Tyler has never played in his life, but he is fitting in very well. He is just a great athlete," Rapoza said. "We are lucky to have them on the team. They have both fit in very well, and they are very coachable, so I am very happy to have them."

Like every other team this season, in addition to getting ready for the usual challenges of the season, they are also preparing for life playing amid a pandemic. While it has added another layer of responsibility for the players and coaches, Rapoza said her team his handling it well.

"There have definitely been a few challenges. The masks for one thing have been a challenge because we have to take more frequent water breaks because it is tougher to breathe with the masks on," Rapoza said. "Also spacing out and making sure all the balls are sanitized between plays and thing like that. But I think the kids are doing a great job adjusting to everything and doing everything they need to do to stay safe."

While staying safe and adjusting to new protocols is one aspect of the season for the Rams, the most important aspect remains trying to win as many games as possible. To that end, Rapoza would love to see her team get off to strong start to the season.

"It would definitely boost our confidence. I think any coach would want that for their team, so it would be good to get off to a good start, especially with the season being so short," Rapoza said. "I know they want to do as well as they possibly can and they are excited to get started."



Wilmington resident Chloe Gaglione is set to help lead the Shawsheen Tech Volleyball team. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

Rapoza named new volleyball coach at Shawsheen; thrilled to lead the way

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

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BILLERICA – Kelsey Rapoza knows all about what it takes to be a part of a winning volleyball program.

As a three-year member of the Fairhaven High School Varsity Volleyball team, the 2011 graduate of the school was part of some very successful teams during her days with the Blue Devils, making three tournament appearances, including a run to the Division 2 state championship game in her senior year.

Rapoza, who now makes her home in Wilmington, will be looking to draw on that experience this season and hopefully for many years to come after recently being named the new head coach of the Shawsheen Tech Volleyball team.

Rapoza takes over for Anne DeMarco, who coached the Rams for the past three seasons, compiling a 25-39 record over that span, including last season's 6-14 campaign. Rapoza was an assistant with last year's squad and feels grateful for what she learned from DeMarco, a former star with volleyball player at UMass Lowell.

"Anne played in college, so she was a wealth of knowledge, especially for hitting, since I was a setter, so I definitely learned a ton from her" Rapoza said. "And I took a ton from my coaches growing up as well."

But whatever she may have learned others, this is undoubtedly Rapoza's team now. But the good news for Rapoza, and for the Rams, is that they will be returning several players who were with the team last season who Rapoza to know in her role as an assistant coach. Her experience, as well as her familiarity with so many players, has made for a smooth transition in the opening days of practice.

"It's been awesome, the girls have been so welcoming," Rapoza said. "I would say the most eye opening thing was during tryouts. We had 37 students trying out, so there were a lot of people in the gym, so it was definitely a learning curve trying to manage that many people at once. When all is said and done, we have a great team here and they have been very welcoming and it has been a great shift."

While it is still early in her coaching career, and Rapoza still has plenty of time in her career to develop her coaching philosophy, she already has a pretty good handle on what she expects from her team



"As of right now, I just want these girls to have fun and to respect each other," Rapoza said. "I want them to have a great time, but still be serious about the game."

Shawsheen Athletic Director Al Costabile has liked what he has seen from Rapoza so far. What she may lack in experience, she has certainly made up for with her commitment to the team and her enthusiasm for the game of volleyball.

"I have really enjoyed having Kelsey with us. She has been a great addition to our coaching fraternity,' Costabile said. "She has a lot of enthusiasm and that will be a huge asset for her. She has a great ability to relate to the kids and she creates a great atmosphere. The kids seem to be responding to it, and they are enjoying it very much. She is a hard worker and she loves the game of volleyball. We are excited to have her with us."

As pleased as Costabile has been with Rapoza, the new coach has been equally happy with her experience in her first year as a head coach at Shawsheen.

"Shawsheen has been great. Coach C. has been absolutely amazing and his administrative assistant Jamie Lee has been out of this world as well," Rapoza said. "They have both just been so welcoming. Any questions I have no matter the time of day, they get back to me right away. They have just been so supportive, especially with everything going on with COVID and everything. They have been so great, letting us know what's going on and what we need to do. They have just been fantastic."

With the season just about ready to get underway, Rapoza is eager to take to the sidelines for the Rams. Like many people this season, more than anything, she is just thrilled that her team will have any season at all.

"I am pumped for the season. We have a great, great group of kids," Rapoza said. "Win or lose, they're just so infectious with the way they communicate with one another. I am just happy to be here and I am happy with everything going on we can give them the opportunity to get on the floor."

Gaglione an all-around great addition

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

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BILLERICA – Growing up in Wilmington, Chloe Gaglione had always been very active. She was never one to just be sitting around the house. Whether it was dancing, cheerleading or anything else, Gaglione had always been very athletic, and also very enthusiastic about being an athlete.

But when she got to high school at Shawsheen Tech, she was looking for a different challenge, something a little different from her dance background. Who would have thought she would have found it on the volleyball courts at Shawsheen? But that is exactly where she did find it, and three years later as she enters her junior season with the Rams, the middle hitter is now a co-captain for the Rams Volleyball team, leading a squad intent on making this season one to remember.

"When I came to high school, I wanted to try something new, so I tried volleyball and I have loved it ever since," Gaglione said. "I am so glad I did it. I loved it right away and I still do."

Not only has she loved the game ever since, but she has also excelled at it ever since. Sure, there was a bit of a learning curve that freshman season, but last year as a sophomore she began to make her presence felt and started to establish herself as a key member of the Rams.

"Even as a sophomore she stood out to us," said Shawsheen coach Kelsey Rapoza, who is in her first season as head coach of the Rams, but was an assistant with last year's squad. "We had a pretty strong group of seniors last year, but she still stood out. She was quieter last season, but now she is one of the oldest on the team and she is finding her voice and is doing an excellent job of leading the team."

Gaglione is hoping to lead her team to an outstanding season this year. Despite going 5-15 back in the fall of 2019, the last time the Rams were on the court for a season, Gaglione is very confident that her team can take some big steps forward this season.

"I am very happy that we are able to have a season during these times. Our practices have been very good and we are so excited to be working together," Gaglione said. "I see a very good season happening for us. We work really well together and have really come together as a team."

A big part of the reason why the Rams have come together so well and so quickly in such a short time at the start of the season has been because of Gaglione, whom Rapoza has seen develop into a great leader for the Rams.

"Chloe is a great team leader. She is easily the loudest one on the court at all times, helping her teammates the entire match," Rapoza said. "She's a very coachable player and is always the first to help out any of the other players if they need help with anything, whether they are confused about a rotation or if they need help with a certain skill, she is the first one to jump in and offer her services.

"She is just an all-around great kid, and a great player. So, I am happy that I have her for one more year after this as well.

Along with fellow captain Kayla Mirisola, Gaglione is hoping to provide the kind of leadership her team needs in this unique season.

"I see myself as a team leader and Kayla as well," Gaglione said. "We try to help everyone to become kind of like a family. Definitely our first practice was a little weird with all the COVID-19 restraints and things like that, but now that we are used to it, it feels great just to be together and we ae going to try and do whatever we can to help the team."

Rams Football team hoping to defend their title

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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sports@yourtowncrier.com

BILLERICA – It might be hard to remember since so much time has passed since they have been on the field, but when the Shawsheen Tech Football team opens their season this Saturday afternoon at the Charles H. Lyons Athletic Complex against Lowell Catholic, they will do so as defending CAC Large champions.

For those whose memories might be a little fuzzy, in the fall of 2019, the Rams completed a 10-2 season that saw them go a perfect 7-0 in CAC Large, while also winning a quarterfinal game in the MIAA Division 6 North Sectional Tournament before being eliminated in the semifinals by Stoneham.

With the cancellation of the fall 2020 season due to COVID-19, the Rams didn't get to defend their league crown in the usual way. But with the newly installed Fall-2 season set to get underway, the Rams will finally get that chance, and Shawsheen coach Al Costabile couldn't be happier to not only be defending their title, but just to be on the field at all.

"We are very excited and very appreciative of having a season," Costabile, who is entering his 23rd year as head coach of the Rams said. "The kids are excited. They wanted this opportunity and they hoped for it, but until you actually get it, you don't actually know if it is going to happen in this time of unpredictability."

In addition to just getting the opportunity to play at all, this season also has the potential to be a very special one for the Rams, as they return a large number of players from 2019's championship team on both sides of the ball. Along with the obvious benefit of having so many talented players returning to the lineup, Costabile sees another benefit to fielding a veteran roster this season.

"I am relieved to have so many players coming back," Costabile said. "This would be a difficult time to have a real young and inexperienced team. We have a nice nucleus of leadership and that experience is a he asset for us, especially with the abbreviated preseason. We spent the first week practicing in the parking lot and then this week we had some arctic temperatures, so that experience has really come through for us."

Among the experienced players that the Rams will be counting on the most this season will be their offensive backfield led by the running back tandem of senior Diondre Turner and junior Dylan Timmons, both of Wilmington, along with senior quarterback Chris Disciscio.

Turner rushed for 1,028 yards and scored 13 touchdowns last season, averaging almost seven yards per carry, while Timmons rushed for 691 yards and 13 touchdowns, averaging nearly nine yards per carry.

"They are both very talented players and they give us a 1-2 punch that I can't remember a lot of teams having," Costabile said. "They are both outstanding in all facets of the game, offense, defense and special teams where they are both dangerous kick returners

"The other thing that makes them both great players is that they both have the ability to take it to the house. A lot of times when you have a running back who is a power back, they can run well between the tackles but they have difficulty taking it all the way. But these two both have the ability to take it to the house from anywhere on the field."

While the strength of the Rams offense will certainly be their running game, Disciscio also has the ability to put the ball in the air when called upon, after throwing for 1,407 yards, 14 touchdowns and 11 interceptions last season. Costabile is hoping for even better things from the senior signal caller this season.



The Shawsheen Tech Football team opens its season this Saturday and will be led by Wilmington residents including front row from left, Jay Zannelli, Jose Cruz, Ben Andrus Jr, Joe McLaren, Aydan Churchill, Mason Glover; back row from left, Kevin Ackerley, Nick Benson, Ryan Dusablon, Shane Costello, Dylan Timmons and William LaMonica. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

"He has matured since last season and you could really notice it this week in practice," Costabile said. "He has a very good grasp of the offense and he has a great ability to throw both deep and intermediate passes. He is also improving his decision making, which should help with his touchdown to interception ratio."

Setting the tone for the skill position players will be an offensive line anchored by four returning senior starters, including three-year starter Jonah Varallo at one tackle and two-year varsity member Liam Kelley at the other. Three-year starter Alex Newcomb of Tewksbury will fill one of the guard spots for the Rams, while Liam Fitzgerald will return to a starting role at either the other guard or at center.

"The offensive line will be a big strength for us," Costabile said. "We are lucky to have so many returning players, and they will really help the rest of the offense work."

The only area of inexperience for the Rams on offense is at receiver, where they lost star wide receiver Josiah Martinez as well as fellow wideout Nick Bonnano and tight ends Connor Rooney and Santino Garofalo to graduation.

But while they lack experience, Costabile is confident that the Rams have some promising prospects to fill those gaps, with three seniors making their mark in the preseason. Tim Annino bounced back from knee surgery in his sophomore year to have a solid junior season for the Rams, while Pete Caniff and senior newcomer Nick Benson could also make some noise.

"Nick Benson has done a great job so far," Costabile said. "He is kind of learning on the fly, but he is doing very well. He could be someone who takes advantage of the opportunity for playing time. He has very good eye hand coordination and very good feet. He is a talented kid."

When the Rams do get into the end zone, or if they come up a little short, they also have a weapon that very few high school teams have in senior kicker/punter Randy Leavitt, widely considered to be the best placekicker in the CAC

"He is a huge asset for us. He is not only a great place kicker, but he is a great all-around kicker," Costabile said. "Usually, a kicker can only do one or the other, but he excels in all aspects of the kicking game. He had some huge punts for us last year."

Defensively, the Rams also bring back plenty of experience, much of it from the same players providing the experience on defense. The linebacker crew of Timmons, Newcomb and Fitzgerald should be a big strength for the Rams. Fitzgerald led the group last season with 52 tackles, while Newcomb had 48 and Timmons had 45 tackles to go along with two sacks and one fumble recovery.

The defensive line will also be strong, with Kelley returning after making 40 tackles last season, and Varallo returning to his starting role after making 38 tackles last season. Meanwhile at defensive end Annino will lead a group that also includes Caniff and senior newcomer Zach Wilson.

Turner will anchor the defensive backfield, returning to his starting role after a junior season where he made 56 tackles while also making three interceptions, forcing three fumbles and recovering two fumbles.

"We have great leadership coming back in every group on defense," Costabile said, "Coach Morneau a great job for us. Defense wins games. Offense can come and go, but the determining factor is defense. If you have great defense in every game, you are going to have a great season."

The Rams will be hoping that a great season leads them to consecutive CAC Large titles. With no post season tournament, and no league tournament in the CAC, the Rams will have to be at their best for each of the seven games on their schedule, all against league opponents.

"The league is intact and everybody is ready to go. Greater Lawrence is always a challenge and they will be again. They are always well coached. And Northeast is going to really tough," Costabile said. "The way it is set up now is that everybody will get to play everybody once. Whoever has the best record at the end of the season wins the league. As defending league champs, it means a lot to us to defend our title."



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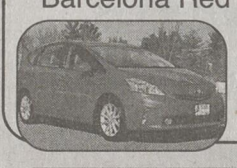
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OBITUARIES

Dorothy C. 'Dottie' (Grinley) Calabro

Extremely talented painter



Dorothy C. "Dottie" (Grinley) Calabro, age 75, of Billerica, formerly a long-time resident of Wilmington, passed away on March 7, 2021.

Dottie was born on May 26, 1945 in Boston; she was the cherished daughter of the late Joseph P. and Helen (Norwood) Grinley. She was raised in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School.

Dottie married Richard P. Calabro at St. Thomas Church on May 9, 1965. They settled in Wilmington where they raised their two children, Richie and Kim.

Dottie was a loving and devoted mother; she spent her whole life caring for her son who had cerebral palsy. Dottie was meticulous with Richie's care and spent countless hours making sure he had everything he needed.

In her younger days, Dottie loved to paint; she was extremely talented and left some beautiful paintings for her family to treasure.

She also loved lighthouses and was a true fan of Diet Pepsi. Dottie will be remembered for her important "swatting towel" and her funny use of words to describe things she was looking for.

Dottie was the beloved wife of Richard P. Calabro, devoted mother of Richard P. Calabro, Jr. of Westford and Kimberly Calabro of Londerry, NH, loving "Nana" of Shawn Calabro, dear sister of the late Joseph Grinley, Thomas Grinley and Edward Grinley.

Dottie is also survived by her Northborough family: Patricia LeSage, Barbara Stirk, Gayle Shivick, Kathy Fletcher, Margaret Cusella and the late Sheila Ellsworth, as well as many loving nieces and nephews.

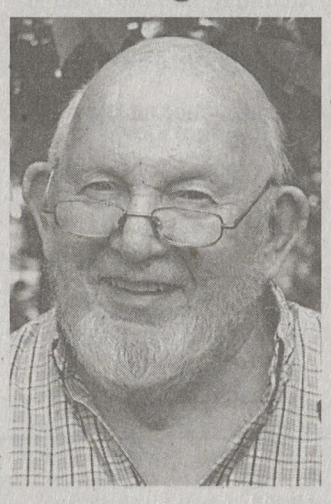
Family and friends will gather for Visitation at the Nichols Funeral Home, Inc., 187 Middlesex Ave., Wilmington on Wednesday, March 10 from 5 – 7 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held at the Funeral Home on Thursday, March 11 at 11 a.m. Interment to follow in Wildwood Cemetery, Wilmington. Masks are required in the Funeral Home.

Memorial donations in Dottie's name may be made to the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, 3 Columbus Circle, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10019.

www.nicholsfuneralhome.com

Ivan H. Curtis

Served in US Air Force during Korean War



Ivan Hugh Curtis, age 85, recently of Peabody, a former longtime Wilmington and Tewksbury resident, passed away at Beverly Hospital on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021.

He was the beloved husband of Susan (Green) Curtis, retired pastor of the Tewksbury United Methodist Church.

Born in Stoneham, Maine on March 12, 1935, he was the son of the late Ervil L. Curtis and the late Catherine E. (Littlefield (Curtis) Taylor.

Ivan attended Fryeburg Academy and graduated from Norway High School in 1953. He later attended Keen State College where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Education.

Ivan served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal for his active duty service.

Prior to his retirement, he worked as a cabinet maker and finish carpenter. In addition, he was a teacher at the Coolidge Junior High School in Reading for 22 years and the Lynnfield High School for 14 years.

Ivan was a member of the Wamesit Masonic Lodge AF & AM of Tewksbury.

He enjoyed woodworking, oil and watercolor painting, hunting and fishing. Ivan was a devoted father, grandfather, uncle, and friend, and enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren and his friends as well as his many extended family members.

Ivan leaves his beloved wife Susan, with whom he shared 62 years of marriage; two children, David P. Curtis and his wife Karyn (Pike) of Tewksbury and Deborah S. Pike and her husband Glenn of Essex; four grandchildren, Kathryn and Jason Curtis, Benjamin and Jared Pike.

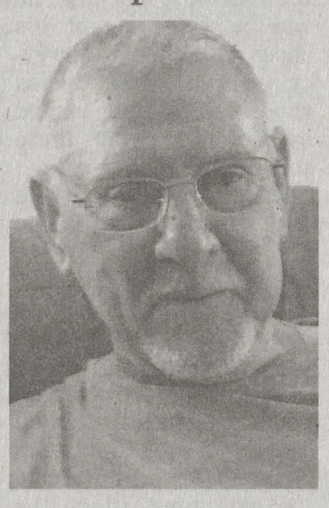
Ivan was pre-deceased by his siblings, Ervil L. Curtis, Jr., Alton L., Wilfred, Phillip and Keith Curtis and Anita Moulton.

Due to current COVID-19 gathering limitations, there are no services at this time. A memorial service celebrating Ivan's life will be held at a future date. Interment of Ivan's ashes will be at the Hillside Cemetery in Stoneham, ME.

Donations honoring his memory may be made to St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 4 Forest Street, Wilmington, MA 01887 and Shriners Hospital for Children, *donate.lovetotherescue.org*

Lawrence R. Tucker, Sr.

Self-employed as finish carpenter



Lawrence R. Tucker, Sr., fondly known as "Butch," "Tucka," "Tucker," or "Larry" to his family and friends, age 80, of Tyngsboro, formerly a long-time resident of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on March 5, 2021, at the Lowell General Hospital.

Larry was born on Dec. 29, 1940, in Reading; he was the dear son of the late Willis F. and Minnola (Roberts) Tucker. Larry was raised and educated in Wilmington and was a graduate of Wilmington High School with the class of 1958.

Lawrence met "his sweetheart" Gail Marie LeBlanc at the age of 18; the couple were soon inseparable and were married at St. Anthony's Church in 1960.

Larry and Gail lived in Billerica for 23 years before moving back to Wilmington in 1985. The couple shared more than 55 wonderful years together and raised a beautiful family before Gail's untimely passing in 2016.

Larry was very devoted to his family and would do anything to help them. He took pride in caring for their home and could fix just about anything that went wrong. Larry he was an avid gardener who loved to grow things and enjoyed walking his property during the spring time to see his plants a/k/a "yard friends" coming back to life. Larry's lawn was the envy of the neighborhood as he was meticulous with his gardens and his lawn was perfectly manicured.

Larry worked hard to provide for his family; for many years he was self-employed as a finish carpenter and his skills were second to none. Larry had a creative mind, artistic ability and did every job with perfection. His endearing personality, great social skills and unending talents made him quite successful with his clients throughout the years.

In his spare time, Larry along with his wife Gail, looked forward to their many travels with their family and friends; some of their favorite places were Florida, Hawaii and the many cruises they embarked on. Larry loved seeing new places and meeting new people; he easily made friends wherever he went.

Larry loved to go on long walks whether it was around the mall, where he earned the name "Mayor of the Mall" or in his neighborhood or any neighborhood for that matter; it didn't matter where he walked as long as he got his steps in and made new friends. Larry walked so often that he got to know everyone in every neighborhood he ventured through; he often stopped to socialize and help someone out. He befriended everyone and his charming personality drew people in.

Larry had a passion for knowledge; he was an avid reader who could have a conversation on just about any subject. To say he was "well read" would be an understatement. Larry also shared his books with everyone; he wanted people to enjoy them as much as he did.

Larry will be fondly remembered as a "great guy." He was the kind of guy that everyone called for help and he would drop everything to go; a real "Mr. Fix It."

Larry was a "people person" who loved to socialize and make friends with everyone he met. He had a great personality and sense of humor; Larry enjoyed making people laugh and smile. Larry's unconditional love and devotion to his family and friends was evident in everything he did; he was truly "one of a kind" and will forever be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Larry was the beloved husband of the late Gail Marie (LeBlanc) Tucker, devoted father of Lawrence Tucker, Jr. and his wife Rebecca of Billerica, Lynne Marshall and her husband David of Wimington, Lissa Tucker of Pelham, NH and Kimberly Tucker of Nashua, NH.

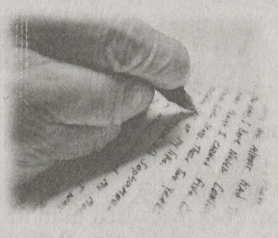
Loving "Papa" of Dereck and Matthew Tucker, Hannah and Shawn Marshall, Christopher Lane and his wife Rachel, Amanda Coulter and her husband Brandon, Emily Lane and Kevin, Bryan and Jonathan Lanteigne, as well as his great-grandchildren Michael, Tucker, Aiden and Abigail.

Dear brother of the late Stephen Tucker and Paula Burns. Larry is further survived by his nieces, nephews and friends.

Family and friends will gather for Visitation at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Ave, (Rt. 62), Wilmington, on Saturday, March 13, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., immediately followed by a Funeral Service at 1 p.m. Interment to follow in Wildwood Cemetery. Masks are required to be worn while in the Funeral Home.

www.nicholsfuneralhome.com

Letters to the editor



Plowman seeks School Committee seat

Dear editor and Wilmington residents,

It is with enthusiasm that I write to announce my candidacy for the Wilmington School Committee. I have a deep commitment to supporting the mental health needs of children and youth and believe strongly that students are not able to access education if their social and emotional needs are not being considered.

As a licensed mental health counselor and school consultant, I have devoted my 17-year career to the belief that successfully raising and educating children requires that we take a "whole child" approach. This means that we must support the child's physical health, social connections, and emotional well-being in order to be successful.

In addition to understanding education from the student-perspective, I also pride myself on my ability to establish meaningful and effective working relationships with teachers, administrators and school counselors. Through my school consultation work (across districts on the north shore) I have helped to evaluate and develop special education and general education behavioral health programs, supervised the clinical work of school-based counselors and social workers, and provided district-wide professional development trainings on topics such as: understanding anxiety disorders in children/teens, social skills training, emotion regulation, and creating trauma sensitive classrooms.

I believe that educators need and deserve adequate and ongoing training and support in the area of social and emotional development in order to meet the demands that they face these days; and I believe that administrators need better access to the research on mental health issues in order to make sound decisions when it comes to policy and budgeting.

I am confident that I will bring this perspective to the school committee when I am elected in April.

I have lived in Wilmington for 18 years with my husband Nate and two daughters (Natalie 5th and Kylie 8th grade) who are enrolled in the public school system. Nate has been a volunteer for many years as a coach on several different sports teams. I have volunteered on the WMS principal search committee and the SEL Re-opening Focus Group this past summer/fall (in addition to volunteering for classroom support when our girls were younger and supporting the important work that the PAC does each year).

We are grateful for our educational experiences in Wilmington and for amazing teachers who have been influential in our girls' lives. While my professional experiences will serve to guide my insights and opinions on the School Committee, it is my role as a mom that motivates me the most to do this important work. I want to be a voice and an advocate for them, and for their friends who I care so much about.

I would love to be a voice for you and your children as well. There has never been a greater need for the perspective that I will bring to the seat. Please consider me for one of your school committee votes on April 24, 2021. I would appreciate your vote and would be honored to serve on the Wilmington School Committee.

To learn more about me please visit: *https://www.facebook.com/MelissaPlowmanforWilmingtonSchoolCommittee/*

Sincerely,
Melissa Plowman
melissaplowmanLMHC@gmail.com

In support of Garabedian for School Committee

To the editor,

For those of you who are weighing your choice for the Tewksbury School Committee, I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse Bridget Garabedian's candidacy.

The first time I spoke with Bridget was over the phone to learn more about the Heath Brook & Trahan Parent Advisory Council. I will always remember what she said in that initial meeting: "I won't sugarcoat it, it's a lot of work. Fun, rewarding, but a lot of work."

Fast forward three years later and I still find that Bridget does not sugarcoat things, she is one of the most transparent and open people I know. This refreshing candor is what I see as one of the biggest strengths she will bring to the School Committee.

How does she do this you might ask? Well, Bridget has perfected what I call the lost art of listening. Perhaps it is because of her 20+ year career as an emergency room trauma nurse, helping families through the worst moments of their lives. Or, maybe it is because she has been so ingrained in our community for so many years, growing up in Tewksbury, and now having an almost decade long commitment and dedication to the Tewksbury Public School system.

Her resume is extensive in the multitude of ways she has supported our community — more so than any other new candidate on the ballot, which speaks volumes to her dedication to this town. Just a few things of note: She serves as a substitute K-12 school nurse, has been elected to four different school PAC boards, was appointed as the vice-chair of the Tewksbury North and Trahan School Reuse Committee, and, maybe the most important position of note, Bridget is serving as a parent representative on the Tewksbury District Reopening Task Force.

Bridget is a fierce advocate for our community, families, and students, which has been reflected in her work on the Reopening Task Force during the entire pandemic. Always with a sense of quiet contemplation around her, she observes, listens, and truly tries to understand multiple perspectives when approaching an issue. This approachable and inclusive leadership style encourages diverse viewpoints, and allows her to challenge her own bias to truly make an informed decision, one that is in the best interest of all.

I could not be more thankful for meeting Bridget three years ago and working alongside her as an officer of the Heath Brook & Trahan PAC. If this note leaves you with nothing else, please remember these three things about Bridget Garabedian: effective collaborator, accountable leader, creative curiosity.

Through much encouragement and support from the people of Tewksbury, Bridget has decided to run for School Committee member. The extensive network she has tirelessly built over the past decade will make her an informed contributor.

I will be voting for Bridget Garabedian, School Committee Member on April 10 in our town election. I ask that you do the same.

Anna Kaiser
Tewksbury parent & resident

Chamber of Commerce business scholarships

WILMINGTON/TEWKSBURY — The Wilmington/Tewksbury Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that six scholarships are available to Wilmington and Tewksbury residents who will be graduating from high school this year.

All Wilmington and Tewksbury residents are eligible. The scholarship application is available on the Chamber website *www.wilmingtontewksburychamber.org* and must be returned to Nancy Vallee, Executive Director, Wilmington/Tewksbury Chamber of Commerce, 226 Lowell St., no later than April 9.

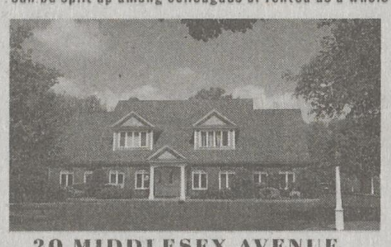
A community that works together, thrives together and the Wilmington/Tewksbury Chamber of Commerce is proud to support local students.

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Lifestyle

Green up your March on St. Patrick's Day

By HEATHER BURNS
News Correspondent

In honor of the celebration of St. Patrick's Day, the "wearin' o' the green" has become a steadfast tradition among Americans of Irish descent. This tradition is directly connected to the long standing Irish symbol, the shamrock.

The Celtic druids believed the number 3 to be the perfect number, holding mysterious, mystical powers. This belief is clearly expressed in the artistic symbolism of the time. Relics have been found featuring three headed faces, three legged symbols and the well known triskeles (three connected spirals).

In addition, the Celtic society was formed within the context of the importance of the number three, with the sacred three, the three classes, the three colors, and the three principal gods.

It is certainly no surprise that the three leaf shamrock was also held in high regard by the Celtic people.

Legend has it that when St. Patrick set out to convert the Celtic people of Ireland to Christianity, that he was well aware of the importance of the number three, and used this knowledge to further his teachings. He used the simple three leafed symbol of the shamrock to illustrate the Holy Trinity: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

There is no real documentation of these "shamrock" teachings until the 18th century when visitors to Ireland noted that locals wore bunches of shamrock on their hats in honor of St. Patrick's Day, directly relating the shamrock to the teachings done by St. Patrick.

Regardless of the amount of proof that exists that directly relates the shamrock to St. Patrick, it is well documented throughout Ireland's history that the shamrock was an important symbol.

The likeness of a shamrock has been found on ancient tombs and coins, and written references dating back to the 1600s.

The shamrock is also documented as an edible commodity for both animals and humans, used to feed livestock as well as to add flavoring to different recipes.

By the 1700s, the symbol of the shamrock became the emblem of the Irish Volunteers, a militia with republican sympathies. Because of the use of a shamrock by this radical group, the shamrock symbol was soon associated with rebellion, which led Queen Victoria's government to forbid the wearing of a shamrock symbol for all Irish regiments of the British Army well into the 19th century.

Hence, "the wearin' o' the green" became a popular phrase, recognizing the pride of Irish heritage.

There does seem to be some debate over which plantlife is the actual Irish Shamrock.

Most believe the original Irish Shamrock, known in Ireland as Seamrog, to be the common ground cover white clover (a.k.a. Trifolium Repens). This vigorous, stem rooted perennial has a trifoliate leaf and is native to Ireland. Occasionally, you can find a mutated four leaflet, which appears as a four leaf clover. Because of the rarity of this formation, it is considered "lucky" and is said to bring good luck to those who find one.

The other possible true shamrock plant is Oxalis Acetosella. This plant is also native to Europe, particularly Ireland during St. Patricks time, and is a well known seasoning for food.

Oxalis does not grow as abundantly as the crawling, rooted white clover, as it is found mostly on the edge of wooded areas, and is a shade loving bulb plant.

Both varieties are readily available this time of year at local nurseries and supermarkets as "easy to care for" indoor plants.

Be on the look out when purchasing an "authentic" Irish Shamrock plant, as many retailers also sell a similar variety of "shamrock" known as Oxalis Trangularis. This plant looks very much like the Oxalis Acetosella shamrock variety, but could not be an authentic Irish Shamrock as it is a native plant to Brazil.

Regardless of which shamrock plant you choose, the Irish Shamrock will add a festive touch of St. Patrick's Day green to your home or office, and with a little luck, you may find that "lucky" four leaf version. After this difficult past year, we could use all of the "Luck of the Irish" we can get!



▲ Trifolium Repens, more commonly known as White Clover, has small, green crawling foliage and is thought to be the most likely plant to consider the Irish Shamrock. (Heather Burns photo)

History:

The white shoe and the mystery of the missing bride

By LARZ F. NEILSON

A bicycle trip nearly 150 years ago is the basis for a mystery story set in Wilmington. The story concerns a young man named Peter Blackman who travelled by bicycle from Cambridge to Andover, passing through Reading and Wilmington. The story was published in Yankee magazine in 1966.

The mystery presented in the story concerns a missing bride and a white shoe, but another mystery is the exact location of the story. Mr. Blackman related that he was travelling on the stage road that ran from Lowell to Boston. He put up in a former tavern, an old colonial home in Wilmington.

He described the house in detail, a two story with a cupola, a carriage shed on the left side, with three sets of doors. He even described the hinges. There was a front room which extended across the building, and the remains of a former bar on the right.

Young Blackman had, during the evening, a glass of a special "flip" with the owner of the house, who told him it was a former tavern on the stage road, in his grandfather's time. That would have been about 50 years prior to the bicycle trip. The host then proceeded to tell the tale of a missing bride, a tale in which a white shoe figured prominently.

When Blackman awoke the following morning, he was missing one of his shoes. In its place, however, was a white ladies shoe. Had he been visited by pack rats, or was there some deeper mystery?

Blackman said, at the end of the story, that he still had the white shoe to exhibit, as proof. He also said that the farmhouse had burned down about two years later.

In a *Town Crier* article published a month after the Yankee story, Capt. Larz Neilson attempted to locate the old tavern where the story might have taken place. One major problem was the stage road. There was no stage line that ran from Lowell to Boston, said Larz, and there was no tavern on such a line. He stated this twice in his article. He went so far as to state that, to the best of his knowledge, there was never such a farmhouse in Wilmington.

However, in the book New England Grouse Shooting, William Harnden Foster refers to a tavern which stood at Shawsheen and Main streets in Tewksbury, where the Oakdale Mall now stands.

"The square New England farmhouse at the crossroads, that, years before had served as a stagecoach tavern on the old Boston and Lowell Turnpike."

That reference would not be the farmhouse in question, but it alludes to Main Street in Tewksbury having been a turnpike.

Given that the farmhouse was said to have burned, probably about 1880, determining the location is an unlikely possibility. Maybe the farmhouse was actually in another town.

Larz concluded his comments on the story to say that if it were not for the fact that the white shoe was there to exhibit, he might presume that young Mr. Blackman might have had one glass of flip too many that night.





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Nelson chosen for United States Senate Youth Program

NELSON FROM PAGE 1

ed on the job about the legislative process, she has begun to work alongside a network of health education reform and eating disorder advocacy organizations from around the country towards reforming Massachusetts schools' body and nutrition education, given high rates of eating disorders in the United States.

Looking towards the future, Nelson plans to bring what she's learned through this program to Harvard College, where she intends on studying economics and the government. Reflecting back on her experience with the Senate Youth Program, she expressed gratitude towards those in her life, as well as a desire to utilize what she's learned to give back to the community.

"I am so thankful for my family, friends, and this community for encouraging and supporting me," Nelson said. "I hope I can use my experience from the Senate Youth Program so I can become a better servant to give back to this community."

LEGAL NOTICES ARCHIVE

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To search the archive of previously published legal notices go to:

www.homenewshere.com OR masspublicnotices.org/Search.aspx

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

Docket No. 21 SM 000238

ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Matthew J. Strow
Kerri S. Strow

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*):

The Bank of New York Mellon, F/K/A The Bank of New York as trustee for registered holders of CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-6

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Wilmington, numbered 9 Allston Avenue,** given by **Matthew J. Strow and Kerri S. Strow to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.,** dated **January 11, 2006,** and **registered at Middlesex County (Northern District) Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 236228 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 37496, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated June 13, 2016, and registered as Document No. 287780 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 37496,** and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before 4/19/2021 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on 3/2/2021

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
210254 3/10/21

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court 208 Cambridge Street Cambridge, MA 02141 (617) 768-5800

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI18P3946EA

Estate of:
Jacqueline M. Aiesi
Also known as:
Jacqueline Mary Aiesi
Date of Death: 04/25/2018

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A — Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Melissa J. Aiesi** of **Wilmington MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/01/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Maureen H. Monks, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 03, 2021

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate
210246 3/10/21

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court 208 Cambridge Street Cambridge, MA 02141 (617) 768-5800

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI21P0888EA

Estate of:
John Francis Shea
Date of Death: 11/12/2020

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kathy Bell** of **Austin TX** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Kathy Bell** of **Austin TX** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/01/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Maureen H. Monks, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 03, 2021

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate
210250 3/10/21

LEGAL NOTICE

WILMINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

The **Wilmington Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from **Contractors** for the **667-1 Road, Parking and Walkway Reconstruction Phase 3, #342077** in Wilmington, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **GCG Associates.**

The Project consists of: Reclamation and paving of a portion of Deming Way. Removal and replacement of sidewalks behind the existing buildings.

The work is estimated to cost **$196,580.**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30 §39 & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer).

General Bids will be received until **11:00 AM** on **Thursday, 25 March 2021** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

All Bids should be submitted online at www.biddocsonline.com and received no later than the date and time specified above.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the **Wilmington Housing Authority.**

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

There is a plan deposit of **$50.00** per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocs ONLINE Inc.

Plan deposits may be electronically paid or by check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders and for one set for sub-bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty (30) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional sets may be purchased for **$50.00**

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for **$40.00** per set for UPS Ground (or $65.00 per set for UPS overnight), non-refundable, payable to the BidDocs ONLINE Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE/SITE VISIT: NONE

SITE VISIT BY APPOINTMENT: NONE

The Contract Documents may be seen, but not removed at:

Wilmington Housing Authority
41 Deming Way
Wilmington, MA 01887
978-658-8531

Nashoba Blue Inc.
433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167
210245 3/10/21

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

SPECIAL PERMIT DEFINITIVE SUBDIVISION OPEN SPACE RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **March 22, 2021** at **7:05 P.M.** on an application filed by **LandPlex, LLC on behalf of Pine and Whipple, LLC** for an Open Space Residential Design Special Permit and Definitive Subdivision of four proposed residential lots and right of way as shown on plans filed with this Board. The hearing will be conducted via WebEx and will be available for viewing on the following cable public access channels: Verizon Channel 33 and Comcast Channel 99. The public will be able to participate by calling 978-771-0819. Channels subject to change.

Said property includes **181 Pine Street, 1020 Whipple Road, and 1030 Whipple Road** Assessor's Map 45, Lots 1, 142, and 143, zoned Residential.

The application may be examined on the Planning Board webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org.

Robert Fowler, Chairman
210223 3/3,10/21

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

SITE PLAN SPECIAL PERMIT, SPECIAL PERMIT, USE SPECIAL PERMIT LAND DISTURBANCE PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **March 22, 2021 at 7:10 P.M.** on an application filed by East Street Tewksbury LLC c/o Mark Rocha on behalf of 1023 East Street LLC c/o JJ Phelan for a Site Plan Special Permit, Special Permit, Use Special Permit, and Land Disturbance Permit to construct a 3,200 SF commercial building, associated parking, utilities, landscaping, site lighting, and provisions for stormwater and snow storage as shown on plans filed with this Board. The hearing will be conducted via WebEx and will be available for viewing on the following cable public access channels: Verizon Channel 33 and Comcast Channel 99. The public will be able to participate by calling 978-771-0819.

Said property is located at **1023 & 1029 East Street,** Assessor's Map 103, Lots 80 & 129, zoned Heavy Industrial.

The application may be examined on the Planning Board webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org.

Robert Fowler, Chairman
210218 3/3,10/21

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

LAND DISTURBANCE PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **March 22, 2021** at **7:00 P.M.** on an application filed by **John F. Sullivan & Barbara Field Trust** for a Land Disturbance Permit as shown on plans filed with this Board. The hearing will be conducted via WebEx and will be available for viewing on the following cable public access channels: Verizon Channel 33 and Comcast Channel 99. The public will be able to participate by calling 978-771-0819. Channels subject to change.

Said property is located at **1009 Livingston Street,** Assessor's Map 63, Lot 17, zoned Residential.

The application may be examined on the Planning Board webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org.

Robert Fowler, Chairman
210217 3/3,10/21

Please Recycle

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ROADWAY RESURFACING CONTRACT PW-21-10

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids for **TOWN OF TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ROADWAY RESURFACING CONTRACT PW-21-10,** will be received by the Town of Tewksbury at the Department of Public Works office, 999 Whipple Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876, **until 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, April 1, 2021** at that time and place Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. In the event the DPW offices are closed due to inclement weather, the bid opening will be postponed until the next day the DPW offices are open.

The total contract price of this contract shall consist of furnishing all labor, tools, equipment and materials necessary for the complete and satisfactory performance as determined in the sole discretion of the Town.

A MassDOT pre-qualification certificate of approval will be required to bid on the Contract. Contract Documents are available after **1:00 p.m.** local time on **Monday, March 8, 2021** by going to www.projectdog.com, entering **Project Code 842180** in the project locator box, and following the prompts to a free downloadable bid set. Contact www.projectdog.com or call 978-499-9014 for distribution questions. No monetary deposit is required to obtain the documents. Contract Documents may also be examined, but not obtained, at the DPW office during the following hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Each Bid shall be submitted in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders and shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in form of a certified check, cashier's check or security bond in the amount of 5 percent of the Bid.

This contract has been written in conformance with the **Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES 2020 Edition.** Additional supplemental specifications have been added where applicable and will govern in the contract.

Bidders may not withdraw their Bids for a period of 45 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, after the actual date of the opening of the Bids. Complete instructions for filing Bids are included in the Instructions to Bidders.

Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development under the provision of the M.G.L. c.149, §26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid Opening to request, if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades' people who may be employed for the proposed work under this Contract.

The Bidding and Award of this Contract will be pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M. The Owner reserves the right, in its absolute and sole discretion, to waive any informality in or to reject any or all Bids if deemed to be in its best interest.

RICHARD A. MONTUORI
TOWN MANAGER
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS
210244 3/10/21

LEGAL NOTICE

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Michael Riddle to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., dated February 10, 2006 and registered at Middlesex County (Northern District) Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 236654 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 19973 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage The Bank of New York Mellon, F/K/A The Bank of New York as trustee for registered Holders of CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-3 is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the Certificateholders of CWABS Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-3 dated June 8, 2011 and registered as Document No. 263142 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 19973, and Assignment from The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the Certificateholders of CWABS Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-3 to The Bank of New York Mellon, F/K/A The Bank of New York as trustee for registered holders of CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-3 dated April 2, 2020 and registered as Document No. 307605 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 19973, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 13 Broad Street, Wilmington, MA 01887 will be sold at a Public Auction at 12:00 PM on April 5, 2021, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

That certain parcel of land situate in Wilmington in the County of Middlesex and said Commonwealth, bounded and described as follows:

Southwesterly by the Northeasterly line of Broad Street, one hundred forty (140) feet;
Northwesterly by land now or formerly of Charles A. P. Sherman, one hundred sixty (160) feet;
Northeasterly by land now or formerly of Harold E. Melzar, one hundred forty (140) feet; and
Southeasterly by Lot 1, one hundred sixty (160) feet.

All of said boundaries are determined by the land court to be located as shown on a plan 36022-A, drawn by Fred W. Gould, Surveyor, dated December 8, 1968, as modified and approved by the Court, filed in the Land Registration Office, a copy of a portion of which is filed with Certificate of Title 18180, and said land is shown as Lot two (2) on said plan.

Said land is affected by a Notice of Variance by the Town of Wilmington, dated February 28, 1966, duly recorded in Book 1752, Page 28.

For mortgagor's title see deed registered at Middlesex County (Northern District) Registry District of the Land Court as Document Number 64050 and Noted on Certificate of Title Number 19973.

The property will be sold subject to the redemption rights in favor of the Internal Revenue Service by virtue of the tax lien(s) recorded in Middlesex County (Northern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 28458, Page 64.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of $5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

The Bank of New York Mellon, F/K/A The Bank of New York as trustee for registered Holders of CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-3
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Riddle, Michael, 16-025573
210199 3/3,10,17/21

By Wilmington's Bob Shure

Black soldiers monument returning after $3M restoration

BOSTON — A monument honoring a famed Civil War unit of Black soldiers is returning to downtown Boston, following a $3 million restoration.

The bronze relief at the center of the Robert Gould Shaw and Massachusetts 54th Regiment Memorial is expected to be hoisted back into place Wednesday (March 3) on the Boston Common across from the Statehouse with the help of a crane.



The relief has been undergoing restoration for months at the Skylight Studio at 105 Salem St. in Woburn. Owner Bob Shure has been directing the effort. Shure is a former Burlington resident who now lives in Wilmington.

Crews have also been onsite working to restore the monument's marble and stone foundation. Officials say the project is on track to be substantially complete sometime next month.



(Courtesy photos)

Long considered one of the nation's greatest sculptures, the Shaw Memorial captures the stirring call to arms answered by Black soldiers who served in the unit, which was popularized in the 1989 Oscar-winning movie "Glory."

American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens spent 14 years creating the monument, unveiling it to fanfare in 1897.

But the work is also among those that has faced scrutiny amid last year's national reckoning on racism sparked by the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

The work depicts Shaw, the unit's white commanding officer, riding on horseback while his Black soldiers walk in the background, a dynamic that some suggest is problematic.

Selectmen praise fire chief, health director for COVID work

BOS FROM PAGE 1

and expects to vaccinate 100 more in their second dose clinic later this month before the last of the vaccines for the town to distribute.

With restrictions being lifted, she said that she has been helping businesses adjust and comply with the different restrictions.

Selectman Greg Bendel thanked the pair for their hard work.

"Not a day goes by that somebody doesn't ask one of us how we're doing and it's thanks to your updates that we're able to keep residents informed," he said.

Town Manager Jeff Hull asked about restaurants using outdoor space for seating, and Newhouse answered that she thinks that the majority of the restaurants who had asked to use outdoor space last year will do the same this year.

The next appointment was with Assistant Town Manager and HR Director Kelly Colburn-Dion regarding the license renewal process for Verizon cable in 2022. She explained that in what they call ascertainment, the purpose is to determine if the cable operator is in compliance with the license and what the town's future needs are.

She reminded them of the current agreement, wherein the town receives five percent of the gross revenue. She stated this is the most money that a town can receive in this sort of agreement.

The board moved up several items at Colburn-Dion's recommendation: creating a Cable Advisory Task Force for the purposes of ascertainment and negotiation, and assigning its members. She recommended the town IT Director John O'Neil, the school IT Director Ken Lord, resident and Recreation Director Karen Campbell, resident George Breslin, and WCTV Director Ryan Malyar as a non-voting member.

They voted unanimously in agreement with both recommendations.

Hull introduced the third item, which was an update on the Town Meeting warrant articles, as two of them have changed since their previous review. The first change was to include the possibility of leasing the property proposed for acquisition at 201 Lowell St. The second regarded an article to see if the town will name an area on Federal Street in honor of Edward J. Gillis.

Bendel urged the board to join him in support of this item and appreciated the town putting up more monuments in this time.

The board then voted unanimously to close and sign the Town Meeting warrant, which Hull assured them would be sent out to residents in a timely manner.

The town manager shared communications regarding a grant for town employees to participate in a cyber-security awareness program, the Massachusetts School Building Authority's upcoming presentations to various committees, and the hiring of the firm P3 as the OPM for the new school administration/town hall building.

He also mentioned the board may soon be able to hold their meetings in person, the replacing of the Butters Row bridge is in early stages, and a consultant was assigned by grant to help town businesses that have struggled during the pandemic.

He included for the board two separate letters acknowledging the service of Thomas Card, who recently resigned from the Economic Development Committee, and Edward Sousa, who resigned from the Board of Registrars. For the Economic Development committee, Jomarie O'Mahony offered her replacement nominee: WHS senior Miriam Nelson.

As for the Board of Registrars opening, communications were made to the town's Republican and Democratic Town Committees asking for their nominations. These two committees nominated Kelly S. C. Richards, Rob Fasulo, and Roberta L. Lasky. Gary DePalma made a motion to nominate Roberta L. Lasky, and the board unanimously voted her in to fill the vacancy that will expire in April of 2023.

They went on to vote in favor of the license agreement for the Wilmington Farmers Market and the agreement with AFSCME Local 1703 Unit II. There were three requests that they approved to use the town common: to light the common up blue in April for Autism Awareness, Terri Marciello to host a candlelight vigil for those lost to COVID-19 on May 13, and a sign to be placed on the town common promoting the Sons of Italy diaper drive. They also approved the use of the 4th of July parking lot for Hazardous Waste Day.

In announcements, the board shared condolences for Mary LaBella's family and thanks to Thomas Card for his work on the Economic Development Committee. The Salute to Service delivered by Bendel honored deceased Navy and World War II veteran Edward J. Gillis, who passed away in April 2019.

Their next meeting will be on March 22 at 7 p.m.



Kelly NISSAN OF WOBURN

NISSAN™

2017 Honda Civic LX
Back-Up Camera, iPod/MP3 Input, 9,425 miles. Stock: W200732A
$14,983



2016 Honda Accord Sport
Leather Seats, Back-Up Camera, 77,036 miles. Stock: W201329A
$14,988



2018 NISSAN Rogue SV AWD
Heated leather seats,apple car play. 26,432 miles. Stock: WP0492
$17,978



2017 NISSAN Maxima SR
Navigation, heated/ cooled leather seats, remote start. Onky 15k miles. Stock W200872A
$22,549



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2017 NISSAN VERSA iPod/MP3 Input, Bluetooth, CD Player 60,482 miles miles. WP0466A **$8,985**	**2018 NISSAN ALTIMA SV** Back-Up Camera, 35,358 miles WP0508 **$16,972**	**2018 NISSAN ALTIMA SR** iPod/MP3 Input, Bluetooth.13,627 miles WP0509 **$17,996**	**2018 NISSAN MURANO** Navigation, All Wheel Drive, Back-Up Camera 31,451 miles. WP0534 **$20,949**
2018 NISSAN SENTRA Back-Up Camera, iPod/MP3 Input, 38,366 miles WP0511 **$11,924**	**2018 NISSAN ROGUE S** AWD, Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio 37,089 miles WP0520 **$16,988**	**2017 NISSAN ALTIMA** Leather Seats, Heated Driver Seat. 22,932 miles WP0472 **$18,498**	**2019 NISSAN LEAF** Power Liftgate, Heated Driver Seat 26,355 miles . WP0544 **$21,598**
2018 NISSAN SENTRA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, iPod/MP3 Input. 27,038 miles. WP0470 **$12,509**	**2018 NISSAN ROGUE** All Wheel Drive, Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio 30,851 miles WP0556 **$16,998**	**2018 NISSAN ROGUE** All Wheel Drive, Aluminum Wheels, Dual Zone A/C. 820,526 miles WP0546 **$18,598**	**2018 NISSAN ROGUE** Leather Seats, Navigation, All Wheel Drive, 23,938 miles WP0549 **$21,998**
2015 HYUNDAI SONATA Leather Seats, Heated Rear Seat, Onboard 57,486 miles. WP0319A **$12,955**	WE BUY CARS! ALL MAKES & MODELS!		**2019 NISSAN MAXIMA** Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio. 4,656 miles. Stock WP0435SL **$22,765**
2019 NISSAN SENTRA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, iPod/MP3 Input 44,982 miles.W201272A **$12,998**			**2018 NISSAN MURANO SV** Navigation, AWD. .35,669 miles. WP0523 **$22,989**
2018 NISSAN SENTRA SV Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, iPod/MP3 Input 21,416 miles. WP0533 **$13,399**			**2018 NISSAN MAXIMA** Leather Seats, Navigation, Heated Driver Seat 12,250 miles WP0517 **$23,599**
2018 NISSAN SENTRA Leather Seats, Navigation, Sunroof. 22,182 miles. WP0537 **$16,537**	**2017 NISSAN KICKS** Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, 1,009 miles Stock WP0481 **$17,238**	**2018 NISSAN ROGUE** All Wheel Drive, Power Liftgate, Heated Driver Seat. 23,415 miles. WP0485 **$19,198**	**2019 NISSAN MURANO** Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio 23,779 miles. WP0532 **$24,951**
2015 NISSAN MURANO Navigation, All Wheel Drive, Back-Up Camera. 64,545 miles. WP0415A **$16,583**	**2018 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT** Satellite Radio 15,836 miles WP0504 **$17,798**	**2019 NISSAN LEAF SV** Navigation, Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio. 21,594 miles. WP0524 **$19,989**	**2018 NISSAN PATHFINDER** Leather Seats, Third Row Seat, Navigation, 4x4. 29,559 miles WP0505 **$26,783**
2017 NISSAN SENTRA All Wheel Drive, Back-Up Camera, 27,259 miles. Stock WP0519 **$16,898**	**2018 TOYOTA RAV4** All Wheel Drive, Back-Up Camera, iPod/MP3 Input 41,978 miles. WP200742A **$17,983**	**2018 NISSAN ROGUE** Leather Seats, Navigation, All Wheel Drive, 33,251 miles WP0536 **$19,998**	**2019 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER XLE** Leather Seats, Third Row Seat, Navigation 57,631 miles, W201092A **$27,983**
2018 NISSAN ALTIMA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio. 35,899 miles. WP0507 **$16,946**	**2017 NISSAN ROGUE SV** AWD, Heated Driver Seat, 17,683 miles. WP0510 **$17,988**	**2018 NISSAN ROGUE** All Wheel Drive, Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio 22,230 miles. WP0547 **$19,998**	**2018 INFINITI Q50** Sunroof, All Wheel Drive, Turbocharged, Satellite Radio, 30,573 miles. WP0530 **$28,749**

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Kelly NISSAN OF WOBURN

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Kelly Nissan of Woburn